

# China Reconstructs

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### COVER PICTURES:

**Front:** Su Kuang-ming (right) and an apprentice. (See story on page 35)

**Inside front:** Surveying for a new rail line.

**Back:** Early spring in a mountain valley. (Papercut, Kwangtung province)

**Inside back:** East Lake in Shaohsing, Lu Hsun's home town in Chekiang province.

# Memories



Lu Hsun (September 1930 in Shanghai).

AROUND 1930 when I was reading some books on dialectics in nature, I used to go to Lu Hsun's home to ask him about problems encountered in my studies. Once I left some books on communism on a bookshelf. "How can you leave these books here?" he said seriously. "It only tells the enemy openly that I am of the Left. It's very dangerous."

He was very vigilant, never leaving any of his many books by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin around. He rented a room not far from No. 9 Taluhsintsun where he lived and filled it with books. The bookcases were made of rough heavy boards. "They are just boxes," he said. "They can be nailed shut, put in cars and moved away at any time."

Why the secrecy and instant readiness to move them? It was a dark society with no freedom. Chiang Kai-shek's government carried out policies against the people, refusing to resist foreign aggression and strengthening its fascist rule. Incidents of brutal

"The chief commander of China's cultural revolution, he was not only a great man of letters but a great thinker and revolutionary. Lu Hsun was a man of unyielding integrity, free from all sycophancy or obsequiousness; this quality is invaluable among colonial and semi-colonial peoples. Representing the great majority of the nation, Lu Hsun breached and stormed the enemy citadel; on the cultural front he was the bravest and most correct, the firmest, the most loyal and the most ardent national hero, a hero without parallel in our history." This is the evaluation of Lu Hsun made by Chairman Mao, the great leader of the Chinese people.

In October 1927, Lu Hsun moved from Kwangchow (Canton) to Shanghai where he remained until his death in October 1936. These years in Shanghai were years of intense and complicated struggle, the most glorious and militant years of his life. During this period the Kuomintang reactionaries, supported by imperialism, stepped up its military encirclement

and suppression of the rural revolutionary base areas led by the Chinese Communist Party. At the same time it carried on a ruthless "encirclement and suppression" of all progressive and revolutionary culture in its own areas.

Shanghai was the center of the cultural struggle. Taking it as his fighting base, Lu Hsun united with the broad ranks of revolutionary fighters in literature and art and carried on a resolute struggle against the Kuomintang reactionaries and all other kinds of reactionary forces. He exposed and hit at the enemy with essays sharp as rapiers. The acute and complicated struggle led Lu Hsun to study Marxist theory, which he used to change his thinking and guide his revolutionary practice, consciously carrying out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and steeling himself into a great communist fighter.

This article recounts several episodes from Lu Hsun's life in Shanghai.

— Editor

# of Lu Hsun in Shanghai

CHOU CHIEN-JEN

suppression of workers, peasants and intellectuals occurred every day. On the cultural front, the government used a large number of flunky-writers to create public opinion against the revolution and the growth of a proletarian literature and art. In a ruthless "encirclement and suppression" of culture, it "started banning books, closing bookshops, issuing repressive publishing laws, and putting authors on the blacklist, . . . arresting and imprisoning Left-wing writers and putting them to death in secret." (*The Revolutionary Literature of the Chinese Proletariat and the Blood of the Pioneers*) Hence to search for truth and study Marxism-Leninism was to risk one's life.

Lu Hsun waged an extremely difficult struggle with the reactionaries' special agents and lackeys in order to study revolutionary theory and keep his pre-

cious books. After careful planning, he threw dust into their eyes by hanging a wooden nameplate on the door of his secret library with the name "Kamada Seiichi", a Japanese on the staff of the Uchiyama bookstore. Even so, he was always on the alert and ready to move at a moment's notice.

Here he kept a great number of writings by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as well as other books on the social sciences in both Chinese and other languages. Books filled the room, leaving very little space for anything except a table and a chair. The light was shielded with an old newspaper so that the room was dark with only a circle of light over the table. Always the place had a strong smell of tobacco.

The history of the revolutionary struggle made Lu Hsun see that one can understand the complex

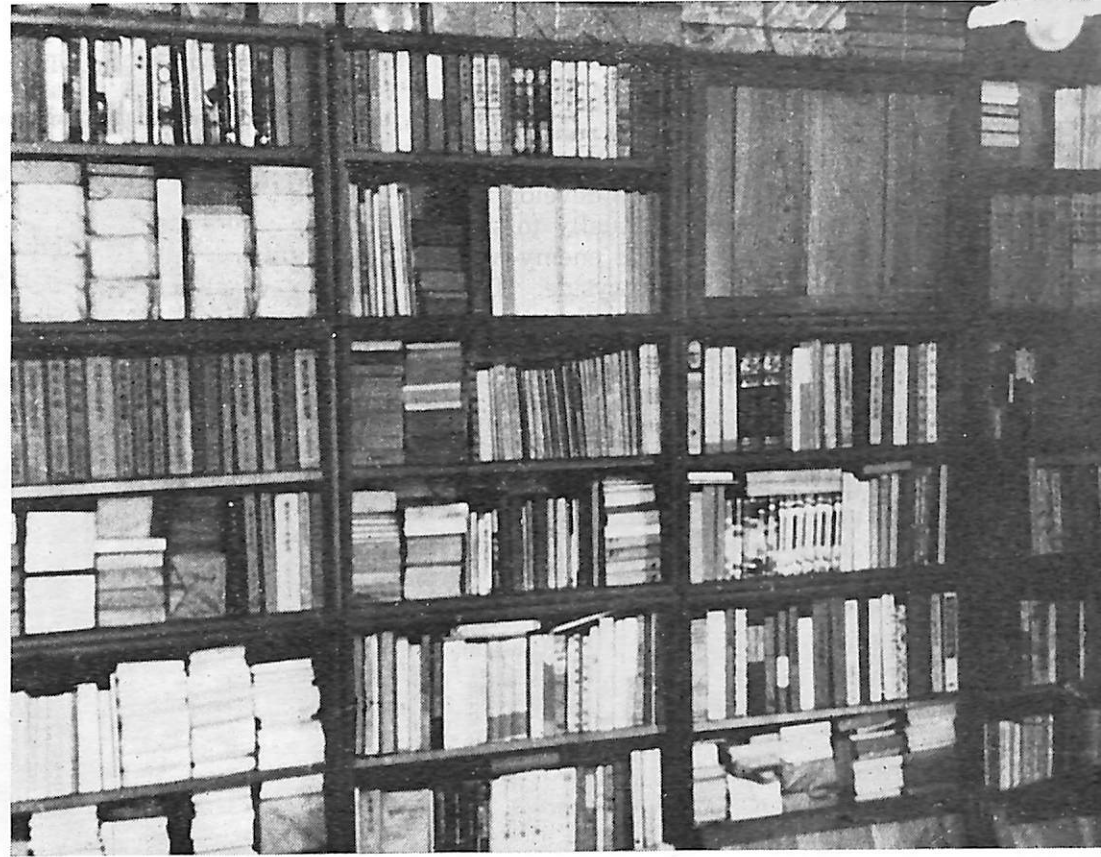
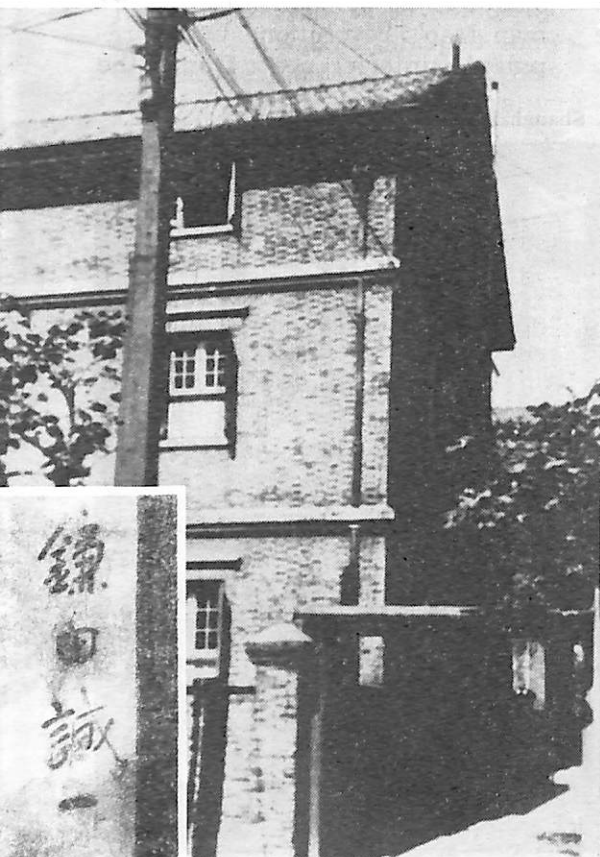
phenomena of class society and analyze its nature only by applying the Marxist-Leninist theory of classes. For this reason he went to the room constantly to study Marxism-Leninism and relate it to the struggle against the Kuomintang reactionaries, against "worms" hidden in the revolutionary ranks and against imperialism. He often read and thought throughout the night.

Lu Hsun studied earnestly, checking passages, writing comments on the pages, using slips of paper as markers, copying down valuable material. In that dismal society, he obtained tremendous strength from the little room. The books enabled him to believe without doubt that a proletarian society would come. They pointed out the

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**CHOU CHIEN-JEN**, Lu Hsun's brother and comrade, is a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Left: Lu Hsun's library in Liyang Street, Shanghai, and the wooden nameplate with the characters which read "Kamada Seiichi". Right: A corner of Lu Hsun's library.



direction for his revolutionary struggles. Though I did not go there often, I always found answers to problems in revolutionary theory and orientation for the struggle of the times.

It was in such a society that Lu Hsun earnestly studied the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, mastered Marxism-Leninism, changed his outlook on the world and became a great communist fighter.

**L**U HSUN paid full attention to understanding the existing conditions, studying Marxism-Leninism for the purpose of using it as a guide and applying it to the revolutionary struggle.

The Chinese revolution fell to a low ebb after the counter-revolutionary coup d'état by the Chiang Kai-shek clique on April 12, 1927. The Kuomintang set up a ruthless reactionary rule, openly served imperialism and stepped up its exploitation and oppression of workers and peasants. Communists, revolutionary young people and revolutionary intellectuals suffered fascist persecution. Large-scale arrests, imprisonment and executions were common. Some lost hope, became afraid of making revolution and retreated. Some turned traitor. Darkness reigned over the country.

It was under these conditions that our great leader Chairman Mao led the revolutionary forces into the Chingking Mountains to establish rural revolutionary base areas, gather forces to develop the revolution, and eventually to surround and occupy the enemy-held cities from the countryside. This was the correct line for the revolution. The red flag flew over the Chingking Mountains.

In the spring of 1930 fighting broke out among the different warlords within the reactionary ruling class. This was favorable to the revolution. Led by Chairman Mao, revolutionary forces grew in the country.

However, in this situation, Party members with a "Left" tendency became arrogant. Making a wrong assessment of the situation, they proposed a series of adventurist actions. They did not understand the realities of

Chinese society, were unwilling to go through the long and difficult struggle required by the revolution. Instead, they wanted to accomplish everything at one stroke, dreamed of victory through uprisings in the cities and a general assault on the major cities by the Red Armies in different parts of the country. Under the white terror of reactionary rule, this was only illusion.

Lu Hsun told me that a representative of that "Left" opportunist line, in an effort to organize such an incorrect struggle, had come to him to try to talk him into working for that line. "You are a man of prestige in educational and cultural circles," the man said to Lu Hsun. "Write a long article cursing the Kuomintang reactionaries. It would be very effective."

But Lu Hsun was opposed to such acts of the "Left", knowing full well that gathering forces for the revolution and guaranteeing its future required a protracted struggle. "It's easy to write an article," he said, "but if I did, I would lose my foothold in this important position for fighting against the counter-revolutionaries."

But even after Lu Hsun rejected him, the man would not give up. "There are Soviet ships on the Whangpoo River," he insisted.

"You can step on board and go to the Soviet Union!" He had prepared a path for Lu Hsun to run away from the struggle.

"Leave?" said Lu Hsun indignantly. "I would no longer be able to write or take part in the fight!"

All the man could say was, "Then do as you please."

The revolution was at a low ebb and under tremendous difficulty. Lu Hsun made a correct Marxist-Leninist analysis of the situation. Squarely facing the cruel realities of counter-revolution, he was certain that the revolution would surge again, and therefore was even more vigilant against the encroachment of opportunism. "As long as flint remains," he said, "fire will not be extinct." He wrote, "Revolutions have rarely been stopped by displaying heads. A revolution probably ends only when opportunists join the ranks and undermine it from within." (*Wiping Out the Reds — a Great Spectacle*)

Lu Hsun linked Marxism-Leninism closely with actual struggles in the Chinese revolution, a correct application of the policy of Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party. Hence, no matter how complicated the situation, he stood firm on Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, repulsed interference from the

Lu Hsun's home at No. 9 Taluhsintsun, Shanghai.





Lu Hsun Oil painting by Tang Hsiao-ming

“Left” and the Right and struggled in a down-to-earth way for new victory in the Chinese revolution.

Analyzing the roots of the opportunists’ theory of knowledge, Lu Hsun wrote of them, “No detailed analysis of Chinese society was made, and methods suited only for use under Soviet political power were mechanically applied.” (*A Glance at Shanghai Literature*) He was against blind war cries such as “Forward! Kill!” He wrote in a letter, “In battle, first one’s positions should be held. If one only attacks and gets annihilated, it is courage without strategy, not real courage.” According to Lu Hsun, “Fighting . . . costs many lives, which is unavoidable, but of course the less the better. That is why I have always been for ‘trench warfare.’”

Lu Hsun’s years of fighting in Shanghai won great victories because he firmly adhered to Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line and persisted in combining theory with practice.

**L**U HSUN saw clearly that because the reactionary forces were deeply rooted, a person fighting them alone was too weak, and scattered struggle by small groups could not move them either. “The roots of the old society go deep, and we cannot shake it unless our new movement is even stronger.” (*Thoughts on the League of Left-wing Writers*) Reactionary Kuomintang political power seemed to want to protect all the darkness of several thousand years.

Lu Hsun was first for firm, enduring and ceaseless struggle against the old society and old

forces, for paying attention to actual strength. Second, he wanted constant broadening of the battlefront. Third, he was for bringing up a host of new fighters, for unity with more people, for forming bigger groups for organized, tenacious and protracted struggle against the reactionaries. Left-wing writers, he wrote, “want not only those ‘fellow-travellers’ who have gone a little of the way with them, but like to call on all the bystanders at the roadside to advance with them”. (*On the “Third Category”*)

To fight for freedom of speech and press and freedom to form societies and hold meetings, and against the Kuomintang’s fascist rule, Lu Hsun participated in and led all kinds of activities of the revolutionary people striving for

freedom. His purpose was to gather forces and rouse the masses.

In February 1930 Lu Hsun spoke at a general meeting of the movement for freedom. Someone proposed that everyone present form an organization to be named the China Freedom League. This was done, but the League suffered severe oppression from the start. The Chekiang provincial party headquarters of the Kuomintang began the persecution by getting the government in Nanking to order the arrest of the "degenerate literary man Lu Hsun" for organizing the China Freedom League. Behind their "charge" for his "crime" was the real reason — the editing of periodicals.

There were some who advised Lu Hsun to issue a statement of withdrawal from the League. "I'll deal with it the tough way," he said. "I'll never make such a statement." He met the threat with indifference. At that most critical moment of the revolution he stood even more closely with the revolutionary masses in tenacious battle.

On March 2 Lu Hsun and 50 other writers founded the League of Left-wing Writers, a united-front organization to guide China's proletarian revolutionary literary movement. Through the League

Lu Hsun pointed out the orientation of the struggle and defined the requirements demanded of fighting revolutionary literary and art workers. China's revolutionary literature developed vigorously, but the League soon came under severe persecution.

Lu Hsun wrote *The Present Conditions of Art in Darkest China* to expose the evil rule of the Kuomintang and its massacre of revolutionary writers. Through a friend he sent the article abroad for publication. According to a report in a Shanghai newspaper of that time, 140,000 Communists and progressives were killed from August to October 1930. Afraid that Lu Hsun might also be killed, the friend asked him with great concern whether it was good to sign his name to the article. Without hesitation Lu Hsun answered, "These words must be said. Just take it and have it published."

The revolutionary people were not intimidated by prisons, machine guns or blood. They were not conquered by the secret agents or running dogs. They were not wiped out by the executioners. Lu Hsun and his comrades-in-arms continued fighting.

To defend the people's rights and rescue imprisoned revolutionaries, Lu Hsun, Soong Ching Ling, Yang Hsing-fo and others organiz-

ed the China League for Civil Rights in January 1933. Lu Hsun was an executive member of the committee of the League. He gave direct help to many revolutionaries in Chiang Kai-shek's prisons, enabling them to get defence or release. He also sharply criticized Chiang Kai-shek's rule of terror, and condemned Chiang's secret-agent organizations for trampling on civil rights and butchering revolutionary people. Lu Hsun was an active and resolute leader in the struggles of the League.

When a Kuomintang special agent assassinated Yang Hsing-fo, a fellow executive member of the League committee and its secretary general, Lu Hsun was also on the special agents' blacklist. Many people advised him to stay out of danger. Nevertheless he went openly to the memorial meeting for Yang Hsing-fo. Back from the meeting, he defiantly wrote *A Lament for Yang Chuan* (Yang Hsing-fo), an expression of his stubborn fighting revolutionary spirit:

*How can I feel bright and  
gay as of old?*

*Let flowers bloom or fall for  
all I care;*

*Who'd have thought in tears  
like southern rain*

*I'd have to weep for another  
fine son of the people!*



Lu Hsun spoke at the Teachers College in Peking during a visit there in 1932.



# THOUGHTS ON THE LEAGUE OF LEFT-WING WRITERS

— A Talk Given at the Inaugural Meeting of the  
League of Left-wing Writers on March 2, 1930

I NEED NOT speak about subjects already dealt with in detail by others. In my view, it is very easy for Left-wing writers today to turn into Right-wing writers. Why? First of all, if you simply shut yourself up behind glass windows to write articles or study problems instead of keeping in touch with actual social conflicts, it is easy for you to be extremely radical or "Left". But the moment you come up against reality all your ideas are shattered. Behind closed doors it is very easy to spout radical ideas, but equally easy to turn Rightist.

This is what is meant in the West by a "salon-socialist". A salon is a sitting-room, and it is most artistic and refined to sit discussing socialism — with no idea of bringing it into being. Socialists like this are quite unreliable. Indeed today, with the exception of Mussolini who is not a literary man, it is rare to find writers or artists without any socialist ideas at all, who say workers and peasants ought to be enslaved, killed and exploited. (Of course, we cannot say there are none whatsoever, as witness the literati of China's Crescent Moon\* clique and D'Annunzio, the favorite of the aforesaid Mussolini.)

Secondly, it is also easy to become Right-wing if you do not understand the realities of revolution. Revolution is a bitter thing, mixed with filth and blood, not as interesting or perfect as poets imagine. It is eminently down-to-earth, entailing many humble, tiresome tasks, not as romantic as the poets think. Of course there is destruction in revolution, but construction is even more necessary to it; and while destruction is prompt and satisfying, construction is troublesome. So it is easy for all who have romantic dreams about revolution to become disheartened on closer acquaintance, or when a revolution is actually carried out.

The Russian poet Yesenin is said to have welcomed the October Revolution at first with all his heart, shouting, "Long live the revolution in heaven and on earth! . . . I am now a Bolshevik!" But afterwards, when the reality proved completely different from what he had imagined, he grew discouraged and decadent. And they say this frustration was one of the reasons for his subsequent suicide. Pilnyak and Ehrenburg are other cases in point. And we find similar instances during our 1911 Revolution. Writers like those of the South Society\*\* started as most revolutionary; but they cherished the illusion that once the Manchus were driven out there would be a com-

plete return to the dress system of Han dynasty officials, and they would all wear wide sleeves, high hats and broad girdles, and tread the streets with majestic strides. To their surprise, though, after the Manchu emperor was driven out and the Republic set up it was all quite different. So they were disappointed and some of them even became reactionaries opposed to the new movement. Unless we understand the realities of revolution, it will be easy for us to do the same.

Another mistaken view is this notion that poets or writers are superior beings and their work nobler than any other work. For example, Heine thought since poets were the noblest beings and God was infinitely just, when poets died they went up to sit by God who offered them light refreshments. Today, of course, no one believes that about God offering refreshments. But some still believe that poets and writers who make revolution for the laboring masses today will be richly rewarded by the working class when the revolution is accomplished, enjoying special treatment, riding in special cars, and eating special food, or that the workers will offer them bread and butter, saying: "Help yourself, you are our poets!"

This is another mistaken idea, for it will never happen. Probably things will be harder after the revolution than they are now. There may not even be black bread, let alone bread and butter, as happened for a year or two after the Russian revolution. If we fail to understand this, it is easy for us to become Right-wing. The fact is that no workers, unless they are the type described as "deserving" by Mr. Liang Shih-chiu,\*\*\* feel any special respect for intellectuals. Look at Metik, of an intellectual background in Fadeyev's *The Nineteen* which I translated, who was often laughed at by the miners. Needless to say, intellectuals have their own tasks which we should not belittle; but it is certainly not the duty of the working class to give poets or writers any preferential treatment.

\* A literary and political clique formed by a few bourgeois intellectuals representing the interests of the reactionary bourgeoisie. They published a politico-literary monthly, *Crescent Moon*, in the early thirties.—Ed.

\*\* A literary organization formed in 1909. The members wrote articles and poems advocating a revolution against the monarchy of the Ching, the last imperial dynasty (1644-1911) in China, founded by the Manchus.—Ed.

\*\*\* An important member of the Crescent Moon clique.—Ed.

## SELECTIONS FROM LU HSUN

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Now let me mention a few points to which we must pay attention.

First, in the struggle against the old society and old forces, it is necessary to be firm, enduring and to pay attention to strength. The roots of the old society go deep, and we cannot shake it unless our new movement is even stronger. Besides, the old society has good means of making our new forces compromise, although it will never compromise itself. There have been many new movements in China, yet each has been overcome by the old, largely because they lacked definite, general aims, their demands were too modest, and they were too easily satisfied. Take the movement for the vernacular, which was desperately opposed at the start by the forces of the old society. Before long they allowed writing in the vernacular, granting it a wretched sort of status and permitting essays written in the vernacular to appear in odd corners of newspapers, because from their point of view they could let this new thing exist as it was perfectly harmless, and the new for its part was content now that the vernacular had the right to live.

It has been much the same with the proletarian literary movement of the last year or two. The old society has allowed working-class writing because it is no menace—in fact some of the diehards have tried their hand at it themselves and used it as an ornament, for putting a workman's coarse bowl beside the old porcelain and antiques in the sitting-room seems so exotic. And once proletarian writers had their small corner in the world of letters and were able to sell their manuscripts, they had no need to struggle any more and the critics sang paeans of triumph: "Proletarian literature has conquered!" But apart from the success of a few individuals, what has proletarian literature itself achieved? It should be an intrinsic part of the proletarian struggle for liberation, growing apace with the social strength of the working class. The fact that proletarian literature has a high position in the world of letters while the social status of the proletariat is so low only goes to show that the writers of proletarian literature have become divorced from the proletariat and gone over to the old society.

Secondly, I think we should broaden our battle-front. Last year and the year before we did have some battles in literature, but on too limited a scale. Instead of dealing with the old literature and old ideas, our new writers started scrapping with each other in one corner, allowing the old school to watch the fight in comfort from the side.

Thirdly, we ought to bring up a host of new fighters, for today we are really short-handed. We have several magazines, and quite a few books are published; but because they all have the same few writers, the contents are bound to be thin. Nobody specializes, each dabbles in everything—translation, story-writing, criticism, even poetry. Of course the

result is poor. But the reason for this is the dearth of writers. If we had more, translators could concentrate on translating, writers on writing, critics on criticism; then when we engaged the enemy our forces would be strong enough to overcome them easily.

Let me give an illustration of this in passing. The year before last when the Creation Society and the Sun Society\* attacked me, they were actually so weak that even I lost interest later on and there seemed no point in making a counter-attack, for I realized they were using "empty city tactics".\*\* The enemy devoted their strength to raising a din instead of drilling troops. And though there were many articles abusing me, you could tell at once that they were written under pseudonyms—all the abuse boiled down to the same few remarks. I was waiting to be attacked by someone who had mastered the Marxist method of criticism, but no such man appeared. I have always thought it important to train a younger generation of fighters, and have formed several literary groups in my time, though none of them amounted to much. But we must pay more attention to this in future.

While we urgently need to create a host of new fighters, those of us now on the literary front must be "tenacious". By tenacious I mean we should not be like those Ching dynasty scholars who used the eight-legged examination essays\*\*\* as "a brick to open the door". These essays were the means by which scholars passed the examinations and became officials in the Ching dynasty. Once you passed the examinations on the strength of this "presentation, amplification, argument and conclusion" you could then throw it aside and never use it again for the rest of your life. That is why it was called a "brick", for it was used only to open the door, after which it could be thrown aside instead of being carried around.

Similar methods are still being used by many today. We notice that after men have published one or two volumes of verse or short stories they often disappear forever. Where do they go? After winning a greater or lesser amount of fame by publishing a book or two, they become professors or find some other job. Since their name is made, they have no need to write poems or novels any more and they disappear forever. This is why China has so little to show in literature and science. But we need some works, for they would be useful to us. (Lunacharsky even proposed preserving Russia's peasant art because foreigners would buy what the peasants make,

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\* Two petty bourgeois literary organizations. In 1928 and 1929 these "Leftists" provoked a debate with Lu Hsun on the question of revolutionary literature.—*Ed.*

\*\* Chuko Liang, the famous strategist of the Three Kingdoms period (A.D. 220-280) is said to have fooled the enemy by inviting them to enter an undefended city. The enemy, fearing a trap, dared not go in.—*Ed.*

\*\*\* The rigid, eight-part formal essay prescribed by the imperial examination system practiced in the feudal Ming (1368-1644) and Ching dynasties.—*Ed.*

## SELECTIONS FROM LU HSUN

and the money would come in handy. I believe if we had some contribution to make in literature and science, it might even help us in our political movement to free ourselves from imperialist oppression.) But to achieve anything in literature, we must be "tenacious".

Last of all, I think it essential for a united front that we have a common aim. I seem to remember hearing someone say, "The reactionaries already have

their united front, but we have not yet united." In fact, theirs is not a deliberate united front, but because they have a common aim, they act in the same way and thus seem to us to have one. And the fact that we cannot unite proves that we are divided in our aims — some of us are working for a little clique, some for themselves. If all of us wanted to serve the broad masses of workers and peasants, our battle-front would naturally be united.

## CRAWLING AND SHOIVING

PROFESSOR Liang Shih-chiu once remarked that the poor always want to climb, to climb up and up until they become rich. Indeed, not only the poor but even slaves want to climb. If there is a chance to climb to the top, even slaves feel like gods, and so of course the world is at peace.

Though very few are able to climb to the top, each thinks he will be the one. So naturally they all stay contented to plow the fields, sow the land, collect manure or sit on cold benches as poor teachers. Hard-working and thrifty, saddled with a miserable fate, they battle with nature and climb, climb, climb for all they are worth. But there are so many climbers that the one path up is fearfully crowded. The simple souls who climb according to the rules seldom get to the top. The clever ones who can push, push others aside or down, tread on them and climb up by stepping on their shoulders and heads. Most people simply crawl, convinced that their enemies are not above them but alongside them — the very men who are climbing with them. Most of them put up with anything as they struggle up painfully on their hands and knees, only to be pushed down again. But they go on crawling, never stopping for a rest.

However, as there are so many climbers and so few get to the top, despair may gnaw the hearts of good men and even on their knees they may revolt. That is why in addition to climbing, shoving was invented.

This is because, knowing that your lot is too hard and you want to stand up, someone sends up a shout behind you: "Shove through!" And while numbed legs are still trembling, one by one some shove ahead. This is much easier than crawling as there is no need to use hands or knees; the body turns sideways, draws back a bit and hurls through. If the shoving is successful it means half a million dollars, wives, wealth, sons, becoming an official — everything. If done badly, at worst you will have a fall and land on the ground. What does that matter? — you were on the ground to begin with, and you can start climbing again. Besides, some people just shove for the fun of it, and are not afraid of falling.

Climbing has existed since ancient times. For example, from humble scholar to first in the imperial examination, from child beggar to compradore. Shoving, however, seems to be a recent invention. If we do a little research, perhaps the nearest thing to the shoving method was "the young lady throwing a silk ball"\* in ancient days. When the young lady was about to throw her silk ball, all stout fellows who wanted to eat swan's meat looked up, gaping, with their mouths drooling. . . . Unfortunately the ancients, after all, were stupid. They did not ask these stout fellows to put up a little money, otherwise they would surely have raked in millions.

The less chance of climbing to the top, the more men want to shove. And every day those already at the top will manufacture chances for you to shove, telling you to invest a little money, and promising you fame and fortune — the life of the gods. So, even though there is much less chance of shoving to the top than of crawling there, everyone is willing to try. Thus, they crawl, they shove, and if shoving fails, they crawl again. . . .bending their backs at it until their dying day.

August 16, 1933

\* In feudal romances, a rich girl promises to marry the man who catches the silk ball she throws from her tower into the street. — *Ed.*

Lu Hsun's writings have been translated into many languages.





Li Teh-lun conducts the Central Philharmonic Orchestra in *The Yellow River Piano Concerto*.

# SYMPHONIES FOR THE WORKERS, PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS

LI TEH-LUN

I BEGAN my career in music over thirty years ago and the road has contained many twists and turns.

I have loved Peking Opera and other music since I was a child. In secondary school I sang in the school chorus. In 1940 I entered the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to study the cello. Every day I practiced hard, learning to play classical European works, and dreamed of the day when China would have her own symphony orchestra and I would be a cellist in it, or even a famous soloist. It never occurred to me that one day I would be the conductor of such an orchestra.

The only symphony orchestra in Shanghai in those days was controlled by the imperialists, whose general aim was to stifle Chinese culture and enslave the minds of the people with "western civilization". Progressive musicians hoped for a Chinese orchestra which would perform Chinese works and develop Chinese symphonic music. Composer Hsien Hsing-hai wrote his *National Liberation Symphony*, but because there was no Chinese orchestra it was never performed. In old China, a victim of imperialist aggression, progressive Chinese musicians were oppressed. For this reason, with others I decided to work toward organizing a Chinese symphony orchestra of our own.

While I was studying in the Shanghai conservatory, some schoolmates and other young musicians and I got an orchestra together. Under difficult circumstances we persisted for a number of years. By 1946, however, when I was about to graduate, Shanghai was flooded with vulgar dance-hall music. The Kuomintang reactionary government's policy of national betrayal scorned Chinese culture and wanted the vulgar colonial "culture" that bowed down to imperialism.

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LI TEH-LUN is presently the conductor of the Central Philharmonic Orchestra.

Our orchestra could no longer carry on. Financial difficulties forced some of my schoolmates to leave the conservatory. Some of them even took jobs playing jazz in coffee houses in order to make a living.

China was at a life-and-death crossroad. I loved my country, how could I be unconcerned about her fate? These facts of life forced me out of the ivory tower into which I had retreated to study music. I and other students joined the patriotic democratic movement against the Kuomintang and struggled with the reactionary head of the conservatory. We gave concerts to collect money to help students who could not pay their tuition. These activities aroused the anger of the Kuomintang authorities. They threatened me with expulsion or worse and finally it was no longer safe for me to remain in Shanghai. In the winter

of 1946 I left for the liberated areas led by the Communist Party and arrived in Yen-an.

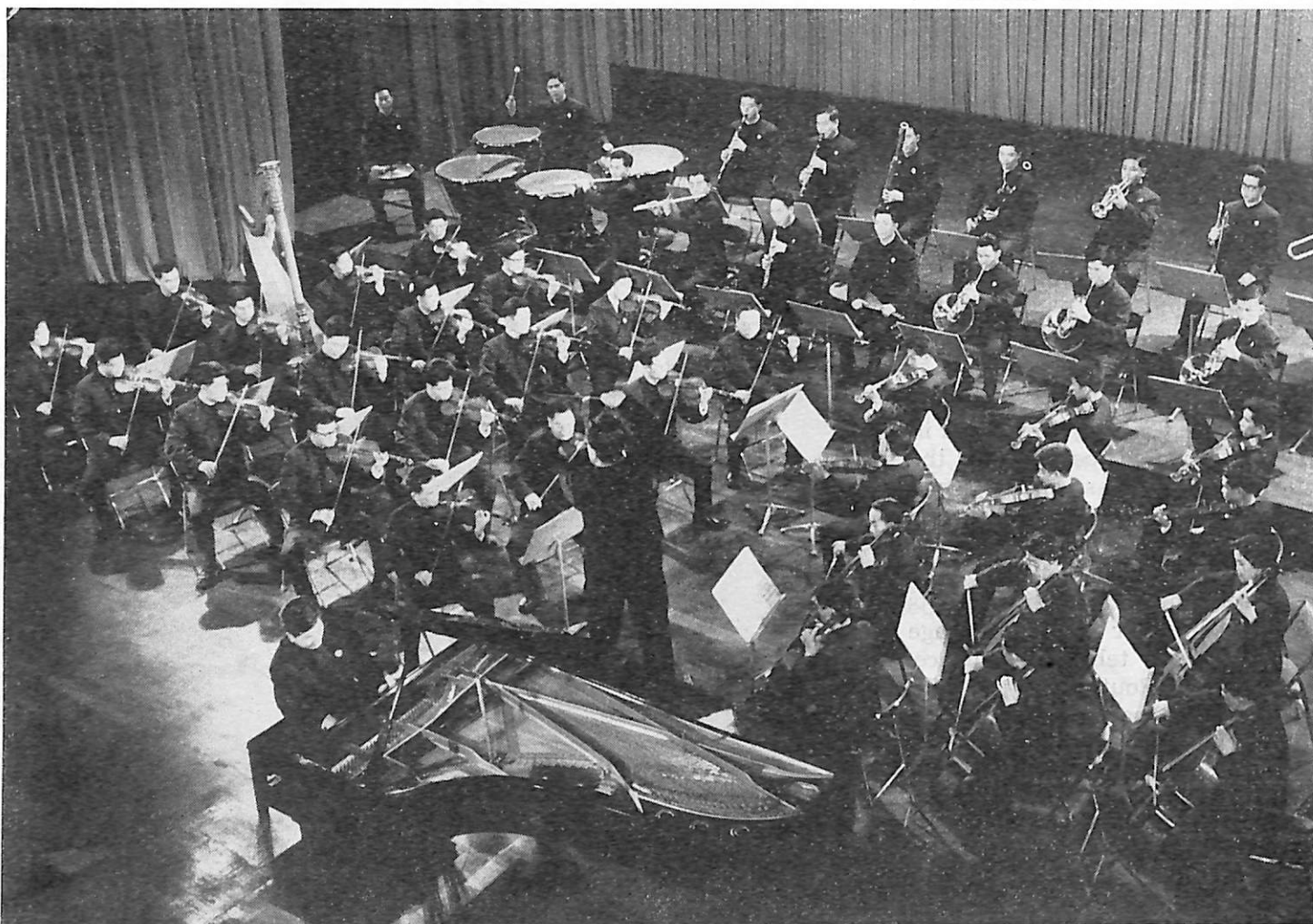
**Y**ENAN was an entirely different world. The people were fired by the great ideal of building a new China and everyone was working enthusiastically for the people's liberation. How close were the feelings and relations between the leaders and the masses, and between comrades! Everybody led a simple, hardworking life and shared each other's joys and sorrows.

Material conditions were hard and no musical instruments could be found. Revolutionary musicians made their own violins and cellos out of ordinary wood. I was very enthusiastic but a new worry arose. I was assigned to work in the Yen-an orchestra. Few of its musicians had graduated from a conservatory as I had. Professional level was not very high and in a

wartime situation there was little time for practice. I had thought that in Yen-an I would be able to organize a big symphony orchestra, rehearse works I had learned and perform them for the workers, peasants and soldiers. Obviously this could not be done for some time and I was very disappointed. But I soon plunged into the struggles of the masses and my thoughts and feelings began to change.

I will never forget the warmth of the audiences in the liberated areas. Twenty days before the Kuomintang troops invaded Yen-an we followed the members of the Communist Party Central Committee's cadre school in a strategic retreat further north in Shensi. There we took part in land reform, giving performances to encourage the peasants to struggle against the blood-sucking landlords by exposing their crimes. We put on short *yangko* operas describing how the

The Central Philharmonic Orchestra performing *The Yellow River Piano Concerto*.



landlords and reactionary officials worked hand-in-glove to exploit and oppress the peasants. We showed their ruthlessness—how they lied and cheated, forced payments of so-called debts, grabbed land and forced peasant girls to become their slaves so that whole families were torn apart or even driven to death. These operas also showed how the peasants won liberation after the Communist Party and Eighth Route Army arrived and organized them to struggle against the landlords.

Such performances inspired the enthusiasm of the peasants for revolution. In meetings against the landlords the poverty-stricken peasants would go up to the platform one after another to pour out their anger and denounce the landlords for their crimes. The landlords were so frightened that they just sank to their knees. These performances greatly encouraged me also.

In the next few years I had more opportunities to come closer to the peasants and join their struggles. In the land reform movement, members of our orchestra went to talk with the peasants in their homes and attended meetings in which they described the bitterness of their past life. We helped organize them in various struggles. Out of this experience we created and performed popular theater items such as *kuaipan* (rhymes to the rhythm of bamboo clappers), flower drum folk dances, small *yangko* operas and other forms of song and dance.

I remember that while marching through the Taihang Mountains in 1947, we would perform in the villages where we spent the night. Though we had covered many miles during the day, we usually had to perform enough items for two programs because the peasants kept asking for more. Village leaders would tell the audience, "The Eighth Route Army people\* have already marched all day and they're tired. Let's ask them to perform again tomorrow." But the people so wanted to hear us that they would say, "The Eighth Route

Army is not afraid of fatigue," so we would often go on until midnight.

In the storms of revolution, my views on art gradually changed. If I had continued to think and feel as I had in Shanghai—absorbed in European symphonic music—I would have felt that the *yangko* opera was so different from the symphony that I would not have been able to appreciate it. But now, living with the working people and sharing their life and struggles, I began to feel how much more moving the *yangko* opera was than the symphonies I had imagined. As a matter of fact, I had never thought that art could have such power, could be so convincing in educating the people and uniting them against the enemy.

I began to come to grips with my own bourgeois outlook on art,

to repudiate it, and to really understand the spirit of Chairman Mao's *Talks at the Yanan Forum on Literature and Art*. I saw that if a musician like me wanted to create works which the workers, peasants and soldiers would welcome, I had to gradually move over to their side through a process of living and working among them and joining their actual struggles. I began to love the working people and understand why art must express their needs and aims and serve them.

But the problem was not entirely solved.

SOME years after liberation in 1949, revisionists who had taken over some of the leading positions in art and literature in an attempt to restore capitalism, were brazenly spreading revisionist poison. They would say, "Now that we've



\* Because cadres and others wore the Eighth Route Army uniform, peasants simply called us the "Eighth Route Army".

entered the cities, we should change our guerrilla-style manners", "foreign art is of a very high level, our art forms are too crude". They spread the false notion that conquering the heights of world music was "winning glory for the motherland" and "indirectly serving the workers, peasants and soldiers". They were trying to corrupt people in the cultural field so that we would turn from the correct orientation of serving the working people. I too fell under the influence of revisionism and for a time my view of serving the workers and peasants became blurred.

Shortly after liberation, I was sent abroad to study conducting. Between 1953 and 1957 I often conducted symphony orchestras there, mostly classical and modern European music. I did not go earnestly into the prob-

lem of how to create a new socialist symphonic music, nor was I clear about how to apply Chairman Mao's principle of serving the workers, peasants and soldiers and expressing their revolutionary aims and needs to this field. My thinking had stopped at the level of the bourgeois school of nationalism in music.

In January 1958 I was appointed conductor of the Central Philharmonic Orchestra which had been organized along European lines. For some time the revisionist line in literature and art was in control and the orchestra was an element alien to the working people and the actual struggles of China's socialist revolution.

The orchestra performed mostly foreign works written for the bourgeois world which therefore spread bourgeois thinking and feeling. At the same time, it often

performed works by Chinese composers, mostly empty in content and outmoded in form, mechanical copies of conventional patterns already over-used by foreign composers. Some in effect even dulled the people's will to struggle.

Influenced by this revisionist line I tried hard to catch up with western levels in technical perfection without considering the content of the music I performed. What I was doing was divorcing myself from the workers, peasants and soldiers; it amounted to uncritically taking over bourgeois culture and thereby spreading its influence. This was doing harm to the building of socialism.

Once, we went to a factory to give a concert of grand pieces by foreign composers and Chinese works in European style. The workers clapped politely after every item. When the concert was

The Central Philharmonic Orchestra plays for the workers at the Shenyang Heavy Machinery Plant.





The author coaching a workers' orchestra in the Taching oilfield.

over, however, we asked them, "When would you like us to give another concert?" and the workers answered bluntly, "Please don't come again. The pieces you played are too far from our actual life. We don't understand them."

In 1958 the big leap forward in the people's efforts to build socialism and their soaring enthusiasm again inspired me to create and perform for them. I racked my brains to find ways to help the audience understand our works. For example, before a concert I would explain the characteristics of each instrument and we would demonstrate them. Then with these instruments we would play the melodies audiences liked and understood. Some of these were our own compositions created to reflect the big leap forward. The workers, peasants and soldiers encouraged us in these experiments.

Once in the middle of a concert for the steelworkers at the Ching-shan Theater in Wuhan, the lights went out. The workers did not leave, so we continued to play in pitch darkness. I felt that the incident showed that we were beginning to reach the audience as we had in the Yen-an days.

But we still had a problem. True, the people easily understood these

hurriedly-put-together works. To a certain extent these expressed the content demanded by the working people and could be readily accepted by them. But their cultural and artistic level was rising. They would not continue to be satisfied with only such rustic pieces. There was still a problem — how to create symphonies that would combine revolutionary content with good symphonic form? I did not know.

WHILE we were thinking and experimenting with revolutionizing the symphony, Comrade Chiang Ching visited our Central Philharmonic Orchestra. In the spirit of Chairman Mao's principles of making the past serve the present and foreign things serve China, letting a hundred flowers blossom and weeding through the old to bring forth the new, she advised us to study the music of the Peking Opera, which had reached high artistic development, and suggested that we create a new symphonic music based on the revolutionary model Peking Opera *Shachiapang*.

After much effort and experimenting we gave a premiere performance of our revolutionary symphonic music *Shachiapang* in

Peking in October 1965. This symphonic music depicts the "fish-in-water" relationship of the Communist-led New Fourth Army with the working people of a southern Chinese town during the war of resistance against the Japanese invaders, and how they work together to wipe out the Japanese and puppet troops. This composition broke through the rigid thinking which had shackled symphonic music with old conventions. For the first time, the music of Peking Opera was arranged with orchestral texture and played by a symphony orchestra. We added a chorus and had soloists who had been trained in the western school of singing to sing selected melodies of Peking Opera, using some of the techniques of western-style opera. To the orchestra we added Chinese string instruments\* and the percussion instruments used in Peking Opera to widen the means of expression and heighten the national flavor. This was the first time that the music most familiar to the Chinese people was used in symphonic form to create heroic images of the Chinese workers, peasants and soldiers.

We had finally taken an important step forward. We followed *Shachiapang* with *The Yellow River Piano Concerto* and "Selections from *The Red Lantern* with Piano Accompaniment" — works also warmly welcomed by the working people.

Our orchestra recently went on a tour in China's northeast. When we performed *Shachiapang* and *The Yellow River Piano Concerto* for the workers at the Taching oilfield, they came from all directions in spite of a heavy snowfall and the bitter cold. When it was over, the workers shook our hands and said, "That's the kind of symphonic music we want — music to move our hearts and make us think!" Their enthusiasm encouraged me immensely, but this is only a first step in revolutionizing symphonic music in the direction pointed out by Chairman Mao.

\* the *ching hu*, a two-stringed instrument with a high register; the *erh hu*, a similar instrument with a lower register; and the *pipa*, a Chinese guitar.



# Shanghai Stops Sinking

By the Shanghai Hydrogeological Survey Team

**B**ETWEEN 1921, when the phenomenon was first noticed, and 1965, the land in Shanghai, located on China's east coast, had sunk 2.37 meters in some parts of its urban districts, forming a saucer-shaped depression with an area of 360 square kilometers. Since the land lay only 4 meters above sea level, if steps were not taken, China's largest industrial city might some day sink below sea level.

After liberation the Communist Party and people's government sought to reduce damage to production and people's homes resulting from the sinking; they built a total of 100 kilometers of dykes along the rivers to keep back the tide. Many stations were set up to pump off the floodwaters after rainstorms.

Work on solving the problem at its root began in 1962 when our hydrogeological survey team was established and given the task of finding out the cause of the sinking and ways to control it. After repeated investigations with the aid of the local people and organizations and a lot of other work, finally in 1966 we brought Shanghai's surface subsidence under control.

## A Mystery

The sinking was centered around Yangpu and Putuo, two industrial districts, we found after studying historical and current data. When we investigated, workers operating deep wells in the No. 17 Cotton Mill there told us of a strange phenomenon. Year after year the pipes in a dozen such wells kept rising. The workers had cut 10 centimeters off them in 1956,

15 cm. in 1958 and 10 again in 1961. These pipes went down 100 meters below the surface. Why did they rise? We made an investigation of the use of water and rise of all the deep wells in Shanghai and found that the pipes in 21 percent of them went up every year. A little over 83 percent of these were located in Yangpu and Putuo. Most of them were in textile mills, which use large amounts of underground water. The rising of the pipes was a reflection of the sinking of the ground, and it was faster where more water was used.

This prompted us to further investigate the relation between the number of deep wells, the amount of underground water used and the rate of surface subsidence.

Shanghai's first deep well was sunk in 1860. The main uses of

underground water at that time were for humidifying the air, washing and cooling in industry and for household use. By 1933 the number of deep wells had increased to 229, and 38,000 tons of water were being tapped daily. The land surface sank nearly 20 mm. that year. By 1939 the figures were 475 such wells, 55,000 tons of water per day and 26 mm. of surface sinkage. As industry developed after liberation, the number of deep wells rose to 854 in 1956, and the amount of water drawn to 340,000 tons per day. Surface subsidence reached 54 millimeters. In 1960 the number of wells was 1,183, water 560,000 tons per day and sinkage 98 millimeters.

These figures clearly demonstrated that pumping large quantities of water out of the ground was

Leading cadres and technicians of the team study new measures for controlling surface subsidence.





The rise in Shanghai's land after measures were taken to control sinking is checked by members of the Shanghai Hydrogeological Survey Team.



Team members and the water works staff test underground water for purity after surface water has been pumped in to halt sinking.

the main cause for the sinking of Shanghai's surface. The mystery was solved.

#### Further Exploration

But then why did quantities of water pumped out of rocky mountain regions not cause them to sink? Chairman Mao teaches us that **"the fundamental cause of the development of a thing is not external but internal; it lies in the contradictoriness within the thing"**. Perhaps, then, it had something to do with the movement of the underground water and the internal structure of the strata?

Geological workers collected several thousand samples of cores and underground water, drilling a total of 23,000 meters to get them. Through analysis and chemical testing of these we got a clear picture of the stratigraphic structure of the city. With cooperation from the plants which used underground water, a water meter was placed on each deep well; more than 200 wells were dug to observe the water table at each water-bearing layer; dozens of surveying markers and instruments were set in different clay beds. At fixed intervals

we observed the changes in the water table and in the stratigraphic compression.

Our work enlisted much support from the masses. One of the most helpful was a veteran worker in the No. 7 Cotton Mill, who had kept observing changes in the water table. "Taking care of a well is like taking care of a sick person. The doctor must be familiar with his patient's case," he joked. A woman in a suburban commune who had been one of our voluntary observers kept it up even though she was busy with a new baby. In one family three generations observed and kept records for us. In this way we obtained a lot of firsthand scientific data enabling us to grasp the laws governing the relation between the use of underground water and surface subsidence.

In Shanghai the overburden, which lies between the bedrock and the ground surface, is 300 meters thick. For 75 meters below the surface this is composed of silt and easily compressed. When water is pumped out of the layers between 75 and 150 meters below the surface faster than it seeps in, the silt compacts, thus causing the

surface of the land to sink. That is why sinking was more serious in the industrial districts, where more water is taken out, and why the land sank more in summer, when more water is used, than in winter.

#### Recharging with Water

Once we knew the main cause for the surface subsidence, we proceeded to study how to control it. We wondered whether we could maintain the necessary level of underground water by pumping in surface water. With the cooperation of the water works and the factories concerned, we began doing so on an experimental basis. But after we had pumped a few days, we found that no more would go in. An examination of the water which we pumped out again showed that it contained air bubbles and a large amount of scale which blocked the passage of water, making the flow intermittent. The scale was caused by oxygen from the air dissolved in the water combining with iron. With the workers, we devised a method of vacuum recharging to keep air out, thus avoiding scale-blockage.



Observing changes in the strata after recharging with surface water.

Now every year from October to April, when many factories stop using underground water, we pump in large amounts, causing the water table to rise, and the surface to rise. From May to Septem-

ber when factories consume a lot of water, the water table and the surface go down. Therefore when in a particular year the rise and fall of the ground surface cancel each other out we can say that in

that year subsidence was kept under control. Because the annual rise is often greater than the sinking it has caused the level of the land to rise over the years.

The recharging is done through the concerted efforts of the city's factories and industries as part of their contribution to building socialism and benefiting the people. Some factories have set up mutual aid teams to periodically exchange experience and work out more effective measures.

When the underground water is used for cooling purposes, the lower its temperature, the less water used; one ton can do the work of several tons of warmer water. Recharging in the winter makes the water underground colder. So the workers go at it in round-the-clock shifts in defiance of the freezing weather.

In the six years between 1966 and 1971 the ground in Shanghai's urban areas not only stopped sinking, but has gone up 16 millimeters. This represents a certain amount of progress, but there are always new problems which we must solve in order to better serve socialist construction.

## CHINESE PERIODICALS

**PEKING REVIEW** a political-theoretical weekly published in English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish, and airmailed all over the world.

**CHINA PICTORIAL** a large monthly with attractive pictures and concise articles, published in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

**CHINA RECONSTRUCTS** an illustrated monthly of general coverage published in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

**CHINESE LITERATURE** a magazine on literature and art published monthly in English and quarterly in French.

**PEOPLE'S CHINA** a comprehensive monthly in Japanese.

**EL POPOLA ĈINIO** a comprehensive monthly in Esperanto.

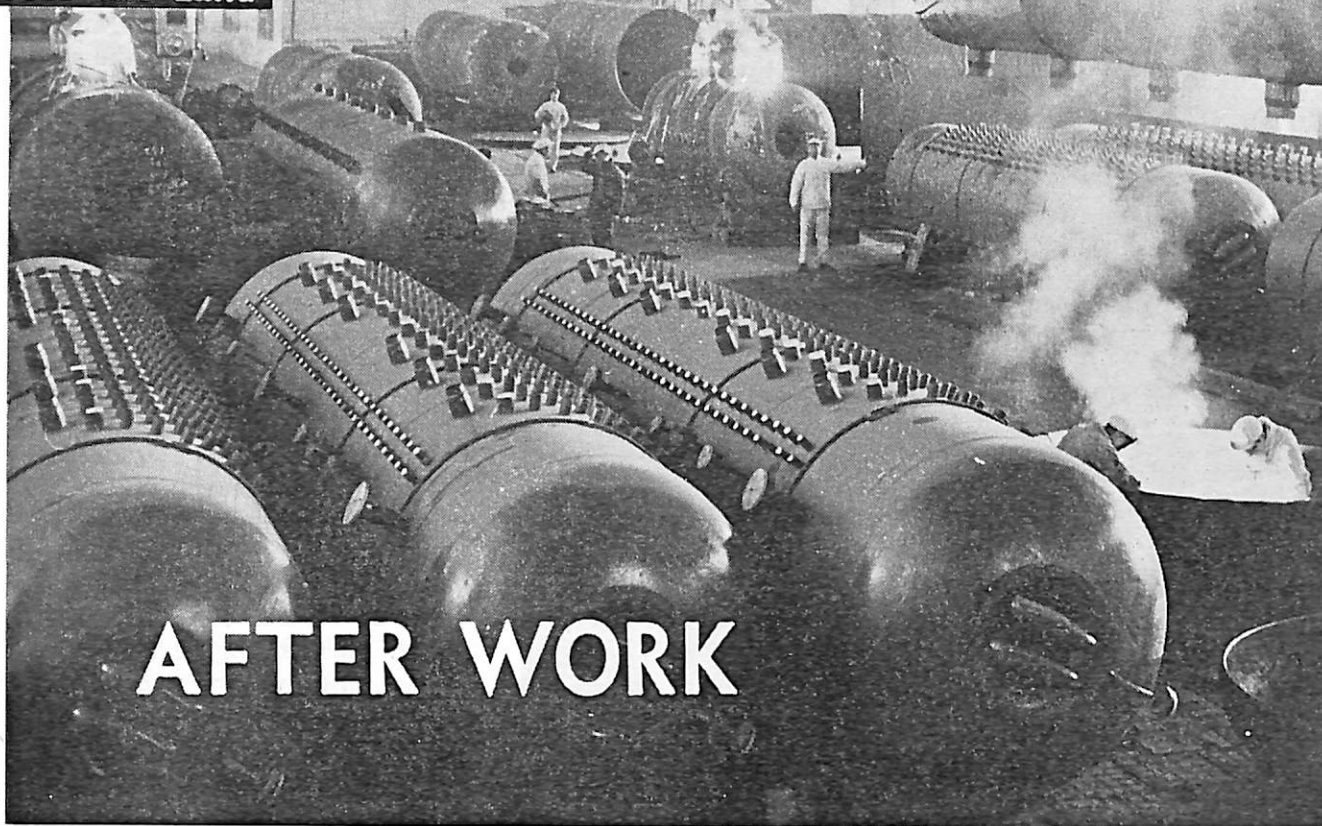
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### Meaning of LANGUAGE CORNER Exercise III

Dr. Bethune was very warm towards the wounded. He loved every people's fighter. He was always in the wards to see the wounded, doing things for them and checking up on their condition. The wounded soldiers were very moved.

Once the hospital bought fruit and cigarettes for Dr. Bethune to express its regard for him. Dr. Bethune took these from ward to ward, giving some to each person and saying in his not-very-fluent Chinese, "Have some. . . ." Afterwards he said to his interpreter, "This is better than eating it myself."



# AFTER WORK

Boiler drums for power plants.

Football team going out to practice.





Members of a book review group from the tube shop studying Lu Hsun's works.



Workers paint after work.

**T**HE Shanghai Boiler Factory, which produces boilers for power plants, has seven thousand workers. Last year it fulfilled its production quota three months ahead of schedule. The workers also took an active part in all kinds of outside activities. More than 80 percent of them have become enthusiasts in art, literature and sport.

A singing contest involving 1,900 workers.



Getting ready to perform items created by themselves.



Dr. Chen Hsu-hsi (center), vice-head of the traumatic and orthopedic surgery department, operating in Chishuitan Hospital.

# PROGRESS IN REJOINING SEVERED LIMBS

Staff Reporter

**I**N 1971 a Hangchow steelworker was struck by a train. His left leg was hopelessly crushed, though its foot was unharmed. The right leg was sound, though the foot was smashed. Doctors of the Chekiang Medical College's Second Hospital transplanted the good left foot to the right leg. Last year, a peasant woman outside Peking was also hit by a train, with the reverse injuries. Her right foot was transplanted to her left leg by surgeons of the Peking Worker-Peasant-Soldier Hospital and the Chishuitan Hospital. Both patients now walk with a special shoe on their transplanted foot and an artificial leg.

These two cases mark a step forward in China's knowledge of how to rejoin severed limbs.

Rejoining severed limbs is a comparatively new field. In the 1960s surgeons in several countries succeeded in rejoining severed limbs. Chinese doctors rejoined a severed hand successfully for the first time in Shanghai in 1963. Since then medical workers in

many other places in the country have begun work in this field. Success is being achieved not only in big city hospitals, but also in town hospitals and even by mobile medical teams in the countryside. Over the past ten years, success with severed limbs has been 68.14 percent.

Clinical practice and scientific experiment have raised technical levels in the process of solving such problems as swelling after rejoining and lengthening the time during which a severed limb can be reattached successfully. Now doctors can not only rejoin cleanly-severed limbs but also those torn off. It is possible to rejoin legs and arms no matter at what point they were severed, do transplantations and reattach severed limbs as long as 36 hours later.

In the old society, the reactionary Kuomintang rulers did not care whether the working people lived or died. Industrial accidents were frequent, workers could not pay for medical care and victims inevitably became cripples. After

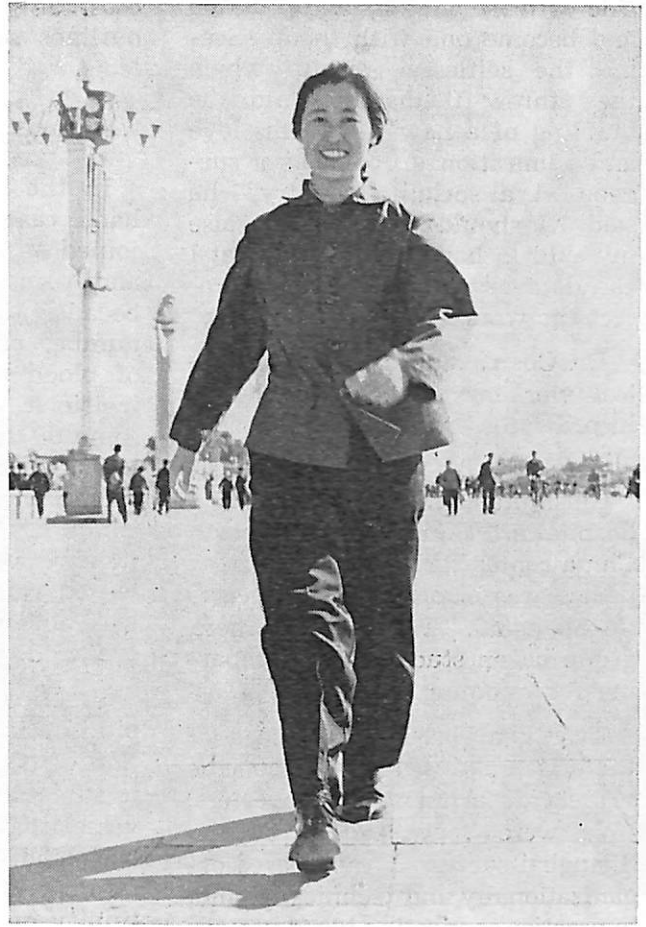
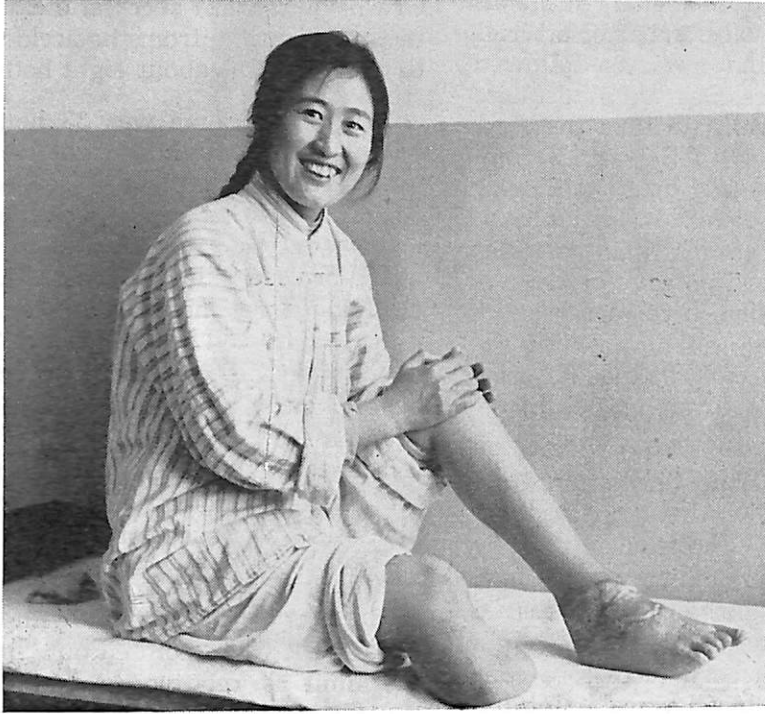
liberation, the Communist Party and people's government gave much attention to the health and medical care of the working people. Safety devices were installed and protection measures drawn up. Anyone injured at work is given immediate care, and the majority of cases of severed limbs recover ability to work.

The success of China's medical workers in rejoining severed limbs is due mainly to their persistence in orienting themselves toward serving the working people wholeheartedly. This was true of Doctor Chen Chung-wei, surgeon at the No. 6 People's Hospital in Shanghai, first to succeed in rejoining a completely severed hand in 1963—a feat which opened up this field in China.

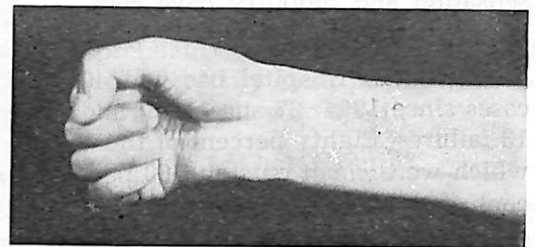
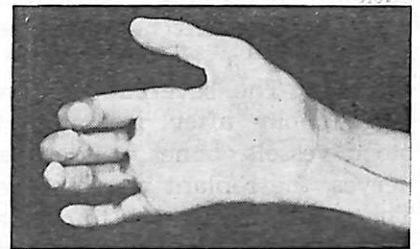
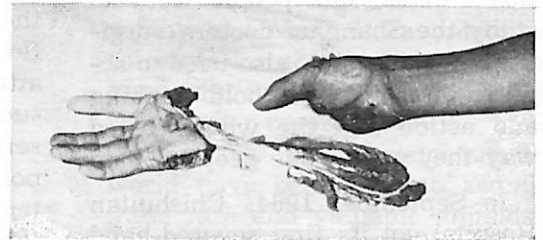
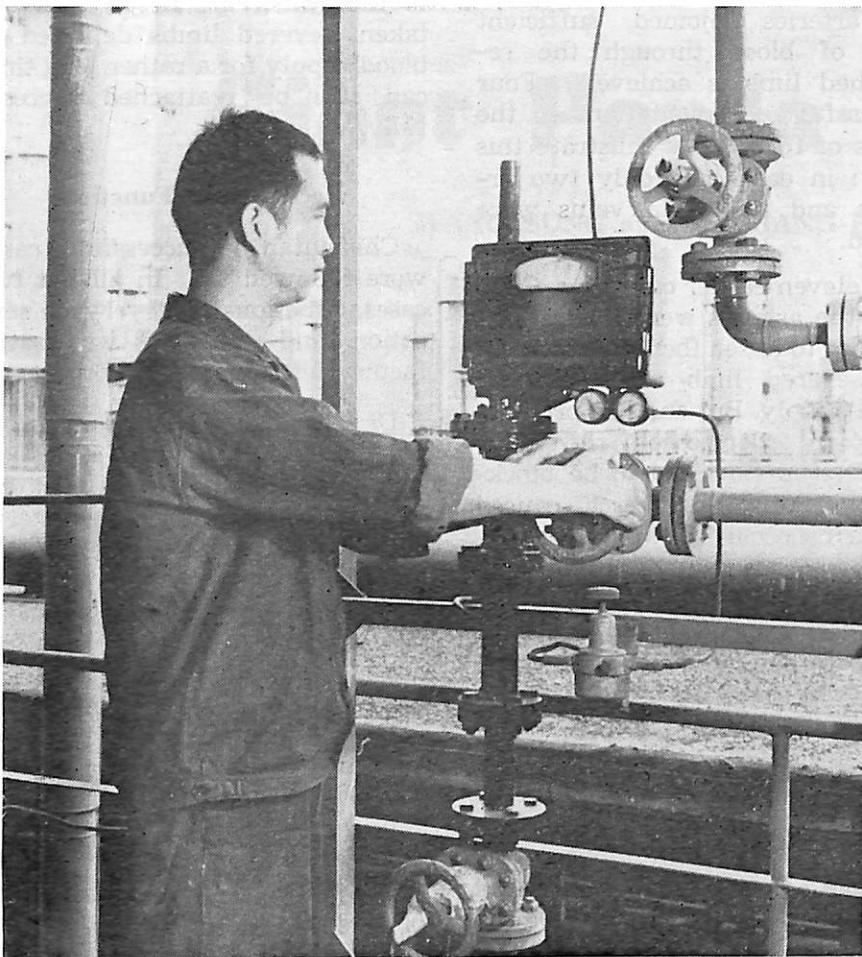
Dr. Chen attributed much of his success to his deeper feeling for the working people which encouraged him to experiment and overcome the many difficulties. As Chairman Mao urges intellectuals to do, he had gone to factories and communes to live and work side by

Fitted with an artificial right leg, she now walks about easily.

Tsui Wen-chih's right foot successfully transplanted to her left leg.



Worker Chang Yi-peng's right hand was torn off by a polymerization mixer in the Peking Organic Chemistry Plant. After re-implantation surgery, the hand recovered its functions.



Above: The hand, severed across the palm.

Below: Surgery is successful and the hand has recovered its functions.

side with the workers and peasants and become one with them. Seeing the selflessness with which they threw themselves into the building of a new China, his love and admiration grew. "As a surgeon in a socialist country," he said, "I should try hard to raise my skill in hand surgery so that I can do everything possible to protect the worker's ability to work."

Dr. Chen's success spurred medical workers to tackle this field in order to serve the people more effectively.

Chishuitan, a 500-bed general hospital in Peking which is a north China center for emergency orthopedics, was inspired by the success in Shanghai. The hand surgery group began studying and preparing for rejoining operations.

Dr. Chen Hsu-hsi, vice-head of the traumatic and orthopedic surgery department, told reporters, "We were very excited by the Shanghai success. We prepared organizationally and technically, and, to practice connecting blood vessels, experimented in severing and then rejoining rabbit ears. The most important was ideological preparation. When our people went to study the Shanghai doctors' surgical technique, they also tried to acquire their spirit of bold thinking and action and the wholehearted way they served the people."

In September 1964, Chishuitan Hospital got its first severed-hand patient, a young construction worker whose left hand had been cut off by a two-ton piece of cement. The severed ends were jagged, but after rejoining the blood vessels, bones, tendons and nerves, the replant was a success. The patient went back to ordinary physical work a year later. Today sensation and mobility have completely recovered.

Chishuitan Hospital has had 40 cases since 1964: 27 successful and 13 failures. Eighty percent of those which were clean cuts and 60 percent of those that were torn off or crushed were successful. Over half of the cases were of hands severed at the wrist or across the palm and most of these were successful. Severed arm cases ranked next, both in number and in rate of suc-

cess. A study of these forty cases outlines some of the basic problems.

### Joining Blood Vessels

In the first successful severed-hand case in Shanghai, surgeons joined an equal number of arteries and veins, but swelling followed because there was an inadequate number of veins to take the flow of blood back to the arm. Skin incisions on the hand withdrew some of the blood. In later operations, more veins than arteries were joined. This gave better circulation. When a correct proportion between the number of re-joined veins and re-joined arteries was achieved swelling no longer occurred.

Practice at the Chishuitan Hospital has shown that since restoration of good circulation is the key to successful rejoining, every blood vessel that can be repaired should be joined. Vascular grafting should be done if needed to restore continuity of a blood vessel. Joining more veins than arteries is preferred, though if the main veins are joined well and good flow attained, even if their number equals the arteries re-joined, sufficient flow of blood through the re-attached limb is achieved. Four successful re-implantations in the series of forty cases illustrate this point: in each case only two arteries and two main veins were joined.

In eleven earlier cases, Dr. Chen said, the arteries were joined first in order to lessen the time in which the severed limb went without blood supply. But another problem arose. In order to join the veins, the arterial flow had to be blocked, which in six cases caused spasm or occlusion where the arteries had been sutured. Each artery had to be re-joined a number of times before blood would flow again within the reattached limb. In eleven subsequent cases, therefore, the veins were joined before the arteries. This reduced spasm, occlusion, the amount of blood needed for transfusion and gave a cleaner operation field. Whenever possible, the Chishuitan doctors now choose the method of joining the veins first.

Extending the time in which severed limbs can still be successfully reattached is one of the major breakthroughs. Formerly it was commonly believed that a limb severed for more than six hours could not survive after rejoining. Of Chishuitan's 27 successful cases, the average time from the accident to rejoining was about eight hours.

The longest time was 33 hours — a young man whose right hand was nearly completely severed above the wrist by a machine, leaving only a 3 to 4 cm. strip of badly bruised skin and one small, blocked vein connected to the arm. This case arrived at the hospital 30 hours after the accident in the cool days of early autumn. Blood circulation in the severed hand was restored 3 hours later, making the total time 33 hours. The re-implantation was successful.

"There is a limit to the time a severed limb can remain without blood," Dr. Chen pointed out, "but the limit is relative to and not isolated from other factors. As man's understanding grows, and such measures as lowering the metabolic rate or supplying oxygen to the still-living tissue cells are taken, severed limbs deprived of blood supply for a rather long time can still be reattached successfully."

### Recovery of Function

Chishuitan's successful cases were followed up. In all but two cases, functional recovery of sensation and mobility was satisfactory or near-satisfactory.

Dr. Chen concluded, "Some problems due directly to the injury, such as shortening of the limbs, loss of parts of a muscle or nerve and damaged bones and joints, are difficult or impossible to overcome. But whatever we can do we are now trying to do better. To attain good function after re-implantation so that patients can return to work and continue to help build socialism, we are now working hard to improve the quality of our vessel suturing and to repair all that can be repaired at the quickest possible speed. We are also trying to improve our post-operative physical therapy and remedial exercises."





The commune members plucking tea.



# KEEMUN BLACK

- A Famous Tea

**K** EEMUN black tea, a famous Chinese product, has long been a favorite for its clear color and fresh, smooth flavor, brewed from fine, tightly-rolled leaves. It comes from the area around Keemun county in the beautiful Huangshan Mountains in southern Anhwei province. The tea gardens spread over the valleys and mist-shrouded slopes 100 to 350 meters above sea level, beneath cloud-capped mountain peaks. This is a rainy subtropical monsoon region, a land of lush trees and mountain streams. The mild, moist climate, which suffers from neither scorching heat nor bitter cold, is an excellent place for growing tea. The climate provides a particularly long period when the budding leaves are at their tenderest, which makes for fine quality tea.



A view

Newly-taken

A tea garden, Anhwei



f the Keemun county town.



Plucked leaves are  
for processing.

Keemun  
province.

Although black tea has been grown around Keemun for about a century, development of the industry was held back by social conditions before liberation. The tea growers were oppressed and exploited by the feudal landlords, capitalists and reactionary officials. During the plucking season the buyers used to stop purchasing until the price fell, so that the peasants were forced to sell their tea at a very low price. Once some of the growers were so indignant at the system that, rather than sell so low, they dumped their harvest of carefully-cultivated tea into the Chang River. Tea-growing steadily declined. By 1948 the peasants had abandoned more than half of the tea gardens; throughout the entire area one could hardly find a well-cared-for tea garden. Only a small number of tea plants remained, their sparse leaves half-hidden in the tall grass.

**L**IBERATION in 1949 brought spring to the Keemun black tea county. The people's government allocated a large sum of money and joined forces with veteran tea growers in restoring and developing tea production. A state tea research institute was set up in Keemun county. Old tea gardens were rehabilitated; many

tea plants were transplanted and pruned and new seedlings were set out. Now, instead of the seedlings being planted in sparsely-scattered clusters, they are set out in rows. This has increased the density of plants from 200 clusters per *mu* in the past to 1,200. The land is therefore more fully utilized.

New tea gardens established on mountain terraces since 1958 make up more than half of the county's total tea-growing area. In the winter the commune members terrace the land in preparation for setting out more seedlings in the early spring. The total area covered by tea gardens is more than twice that before liberation. Today slope after slope of tea gardens, old and new, stretch far into the distance.

Management of the crop has been improved. Rational application of fertilizer, plucking of the leaves stage by stage at the proper time, selection of good seed and prevention and elimination of insects and plant diseases have increased the output year by year. In 1972 the production of this tea surpassed the highest figure in history.

Before liberation Keemun black was processed by hand, utilizing

the heat of the sun. An old saying went, "Drying tea depends on the sun; when there's no sun, you're undone." Seven or eight people working hard all day could only process about 200 kilograms of green leaves. Now this primary processing is done in mechanized plants. Five state plants set up in Keemun county handle one-third of the leaves, and the commune production brigades have their own plants. The Keemun State Tea Processing Plant does both primary processing and finishing (grading, cutting and sorting). A total of 35,000 kg. of leaves a day pass through its automatic processing line.

During the tea season, the height of activity, the air is heavy with the scent of the green leaves as they pass into and are swallowed up by the giant machine. There they are withered by hot air from blowers. Conveyer belts carry a steady stream of the now-soft, withered leaves into the rolling machines and then out again and into the room where they are fermented. From there they go to thermostatically-controlled dryers, and then the fragrant black leaves pass through the finishing process to become tea sorted and graded as it is known to the customer.



Machines now do much of the work formerly done by hand.

(42)



Giant pandas are good climbers.

# The Giant Panda

WANG SUNG and LU CHANG-KUN

The type of natural area where the giant panda lives.



THE FAMOUS giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) is found only in the mountains of southwest China. It has inhabited the earth for at least 600,000 years, but was not entered in world zoological records until 1869. Only a few zoos throughout the world have been able to acquire these rare and valuable animals.

An adult giant panda weighs over one hundred kilograms. Its body varies from 1.5 to 1.8 meters in length, but the tail is only 20 centimeters long. The fur on its body is white, and black on the limbs and in a strip across the shoulders. The two small black ears and an oval black patch surrounding each eye give the white furry face a wistful clown-like expression. Congenial and playful, the roly-poly giant panda wins the hearts of all who see it.

### What Family?

This unusual mammal greatly resembles the bear, but it also has characteristics of the lesser panda

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WANG SUNG and LU CHANG-KUN are research assistants at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



and other procyonids like the raccoon. To what family does the giant panda belong? During the past century much research has been done on this topic by zoologists both in China and abroad. However, as the materials on which they based their studies differed, their conclusions differed. Some contended that it belonged to the *Ursidae*, the bear family, others that it was one of the *Procyonidae* like the lesser pandas. Still others believed it belonged to neither but was a mammal which should be classified in between these two families.

Research is still being done on the giant panda's physical, anatomical and serological features. Although there is only a limited amount of fossil material, and direct evidence of its evolution as a species and for classification is still not adequate, most scientists in China and abroad are now inclined to think that the giant panda and the bear are closely related and probably have a common ancestor. The differences between it and other species of carnivorous animals like the lesser pandas, raccoons and those of the cat family are rather great. Whatever similarities exist are a result of functional adaptation. Chinese zoologists tend to believe that the giant panda should be in a family of its own, the *Ailuropodidae*, in view of the particular structure of its teeth and digestive system, the order in which the teeth change and the characteristics of its newborn.

#### Distribution and Habits

The now-rare giant panda once ranged over quite a wide area. Paleontological research shows that during the Middle and Late Pleistocene epoch round about 600,000 years ago, the giant panda was distributed widely over the southern part of China. Fossils of

Close-up on a fir tree.

it have been discovered in Szechuan, Yunnan and Fukien provinces and in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. Similar fossils have also been found in Burma. The fossils of various mammals of that period show that then the giant panda lived in the forests in a much warmer climate than at present. Due to the Ice Age and the activities of man, other animals of that period including the orangutan, hyena, tapir and stegodon became extinct in China. Only the giant panda survived. Today giant pandas are found solely in northern and central Szechuan and in the mountains fringing the southernmost part of Kansu province. In 1964 giant pandas were also discovered in that part of the Chinling Mountains just inside the southern border of Shensi province.

Investigations by Chinese scientists have found that now the giant panda dwells in mixed forests of needleleaf and broadleaf trees growing in high mountain ravines 2,800 to 4,000 meters above sea level. The climate is in general

cold and damp. Summers are cool and winters very cold. Rain, snow and hail are frequent. The China-cane bamboo (*Sinarundinaria*) forests there are so dense that one cannot see through them a meter ahead. These provide a natural refuge and inexhaustible food reserve for the giant panda.

It was once thought that this mammal was a vegetarian, eating only bamboo. It has now been verified that while bamboo is its main food, it also sometimes eats other animals. This is shown by the presence of animal bones in the stomach of a panda that had died.

From observation it has been found that giant pandas do not hibernate in winter but move to higher or lower altitudes with the seasonal changes in the weather. In winter they go down into the ravines, and in the summer, up to the higher mountain slopes. Ordinarily giant pandas have no permanent den, and the males and females live apart. During the mating season in late spring and

early summer, one can hear its low, deep mating call sounding through the quiet mountain forests. When the female is about to give birth in the autumn of the same year, she will look for a hollow tree or cave in which to settle, bear her cub and nurse it. A newborn giant panda is usually no larger than an adult white rat and weighs only about 100 grams. It is thinly covered with white fur and cannot crawl until it is three months old.

The giant panda usually lumbers along at a leisurely pace. Sometimes an investigator can even come within 20 meters of it. But if it senses danger, it will dart back along its own trail or climb a big tree with surprising speed and agility. It can also swim across mountain streams. For this reason, its natural enemies, the red dog and leopard, pose no serious threat to its existence. The forests inhabited by the giant panda are also the home of other rare animals and birds, such as the takin, golden monkey, serow, musk deer, ring-necked pheasant,



Li Li and her cub Ming Ming in the Peking Zoo.

blue-eared pheasant and blood pheasant.

### Preservation and Research

In old China many kinds of rare birds and animals were caught or slaughtered indiscriminately. The reactionary government also allowed the imperialists to plunder them at will, so that some species were on the verge of extinction. After the establishment of the new China in 1949, the Communist Party and people's government adopted a wildlife policy of preservation, breeding in captivity and hunting in a planned way. The giant panda heads the list of rare animals which must be preserved. Hunting it is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the wildlife authorities before a panda can be captured, even for research or for a zoo.

The areas inhabited by the giant panda have been turned into nature reserves. One of these is the

Wanglang Nature Reserve in Szechuan province. It covers an area of 200 square kilometers in the rugged terrain and dense forests of the Minshan Mountains. Other famous rare animals also live there, such as the takin and golden monkey. Once on the verge of extinction, since the policy of preservation has been in operation, they have been increasing in number.

During the same period, through observing and research on giant pandas raised in captivity, Chinese zoo keepers and zoologists have accumulated much valuable experience concerning their care, feeding and illnesses, and data on their growth and propagation. The Peking Zoo acquired its first giant panda in 1956, and afterwards other big zoos in the country also got them. In September 1963 the birth of the first giant panda born in captivity was an event noted in zoological circles throughout the world. A male named Ming Ming was born of

Li Li and Pi Pi, both at the Peking Zoo. Since then several other giant pandas have been born in Chinese zoos. These events provided material, not easily obtained in the natural surroundings, about the development of the individual panda as well as a new basis for the study of the evolution of the giant panda as a species.

To gain a further understanding of the habits of this peculiar animal and its distribution in the country, personnel of Chinese research institutes and university zoology departments have many times gone deep into the high mountains to make on-the-spot investigations together with the local people and experienced hunters. Vertebrate paleontologists have done much research and written a number of reports on the distribution of giant panda fossils, providing valuable new material on the subject. Scientists have also made a study of the giant panda's anatomy. Investigation and study is still going on.

## STAMPS OF NEW CHINA

### Giant Pandas

A SET of 6 stamps featuring giant pandas painted in black ink by China's famous artist Wu Tso-jen were issued by the Bureau of Posts and Telecommunications on January 15, 1973. (Three stamps on the

same theme had been issued on August 5, 1963.)

Stamp 1, 20 fen, panda eats leaves in its paws, back to a bamboo grove. Light cobalt border.

Stamp 2, 10 fen, mother panda holding cub. Light dull green border.

Stamp 3, 8 fen, mother and cub eating, bamboo grove in the upper right-hand corner. Light buff border.

Stamp 4, 8 fen, two pandas eating leaves. Light drab border.

Stamp 5, 4 fen, a giant panda eating bamboo leaves and leaning against a bamboo. Light apple-green border.

Stamp 6, 43 fen, two pandas sitting face to face. Light lavender border.

Photogravured, 30 × 40 mm. Perf. 11. Serial numbers 57-62.





# A FRIENDLY JOURNEY

PEI SHIH-CHANG

FROM October to December last year I toured Britain, Sweden, Canada and the United States with a delegation of Chinese scientists. In 72 days we visited 28 universities and 40 institutes and laboratories in 23 cities. We received a warm, friendly reception from scientists wherever we went. This trip to promote mutual understanding and friendship with scientists of these four countries left a deep impression on us.

The first country we visited was Britain. In autumn the days are often clear and brisk, the temperature comfortable. Everywhere, from the capital London to the ancient Scottish city of Edinburgh, we encountered great hospitality from the scientists. With English and Scottish scientists we visited research organizations and discussed scientific questions in the daytime. In the evenings, sometimes far into the night, we would sit talking of friendship and other things. Sir Alan L. Hodgkin, president of the Royal Society, personally accompanied us on a tour of Cambridge and back to London at midnight.

SWEDEN was next on our itinerary. China and Sweden established contacts as early as the 17th century. We received a hearty reception from Prof. Carl Gustaf Bernhard, president of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Erik Rudberg, its permanent secretary, and Prof. Gunnar Hambraeus, managing director of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. We were invited to attend the annual meeting

of the latter. Prof. Hambraeus began his opening address by reading in Chinese the following quotation from Chairman Mao: "Externally, unite in a common struggle with those nations of the world which treat us as equals and with the peoples of all countries." He gave our delegation a warm welcome. On the eve of our departure from Sweden, Prof. Hambraeus entertained us in his home, which made us feel especially close to him. In Uppsala, cradle of Swedish culture, the mayor welcomed us with a traditional ceremony reserved for distinguished guests. The director of the Kiruna Geophysics Institute came back from the United States especially to receive us and accompany us on our tour of the institute.

CANADA is the homeland of the great internationalist fighter Dr. Bethune, who gave his life for the cause of the Chinese people's liberation. It was a moving experience to tread the soil of his native land. We visited Dr. Bethune's alma mater, Toronto University, and were warmly received by its president, Prof. J. R. Evans, friends of Dr. Bethune and many other Canadian friends. At the University of Quebec we found out about the university's teaching and research and talked by telephone with friends in branch schools hundreds of miles away who brought us greetings from teachers and students there.

In Vancouver, as we stood on a hill overlooking the sea, the president of the University of British Columbia pointed westward towards China and observed that though our countries are separat-

ed by the Pacific Ocean, our peoples have ties of friendship. These words of friendship made us feel how close the hearts of the Chinese and Canadian peoples are!

THE United States was the last country we visited. In early winter, some of the northern cities were already covered with snow and ice. The outstanding note of our 25-day visit was the warmth shown by American friends. We were warmly received by Prof. Emil L. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, and Mrs. Anne Keatley, its executive secretary, and Profs. Martin Goldberger and Jeremy J. Stone, respectively chairman and director of the Federation of American Scientists. When we visited the National Accelerator Laboratory jointly managed by 52 universities, located in Chicago, America's second largest city, Prof. Norman F. Ramsey, president of the University Research Association, drove on snowy roads from Harvard on the east coast to accompany us through it.

All these incidents reflect the friendly feelings of the scientists and other people of Britain, Sweden, Canada and the United States for the Chinese people.

IN all four countries our delegation of Chinese scientists not only made new friends but also met with many old friends in scientific circles. Prof. Chang Wenyu had studied in Britain in his youth. Two of his former teachers, now retired, came to see him while he was there. They discussed the changes in the world situation in

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PEI SHIH-CHANG was head of the Delegation of Chinese Scientists.

the last 30 years and the friendship between our peoples. Prof. K. Mendelssohn, professor of physics at Oxford University, has visited China many times and is an old friend of Chinese scientific circles. When we visited Oxford he invited us and some British friends to dinner at his home, where we recalled some unforgettable moments during his trips to China.

The University of Toronto in Canada is Prof. Chien Wei-chang's alma mater. Speaking at a dinner to welcome us there, he said it was an exciting experience to come there again after 30 years to learn from the Canadian people. He expressed the hope that the Canadian people would make still greater achievements.

Prof. W.B. Lewis, vice-president of the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada, was a classmate of Prof. Chang Wen-yu at Cambridge. He drove to Ottawa to attend the reception given for our delegation by the Chinese Embassy and to see his old classmate. "It won't be 30 years before we meet again," he said confidently as we parted. Prof. J.T. Wilson, president of the



Swedish Minister of Higher Education and Research Mr. S. Moberg (third left) met with the delegation. Prof. C.G. Bernhard (fifth left), President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and Wang Lu-ming (second left), Chinese ambassador to Sweden, were also present.

Royal Society of Canada and principal of the Erindale College, University of Toronto, gave a dinner at his home which left a deep impression on us.

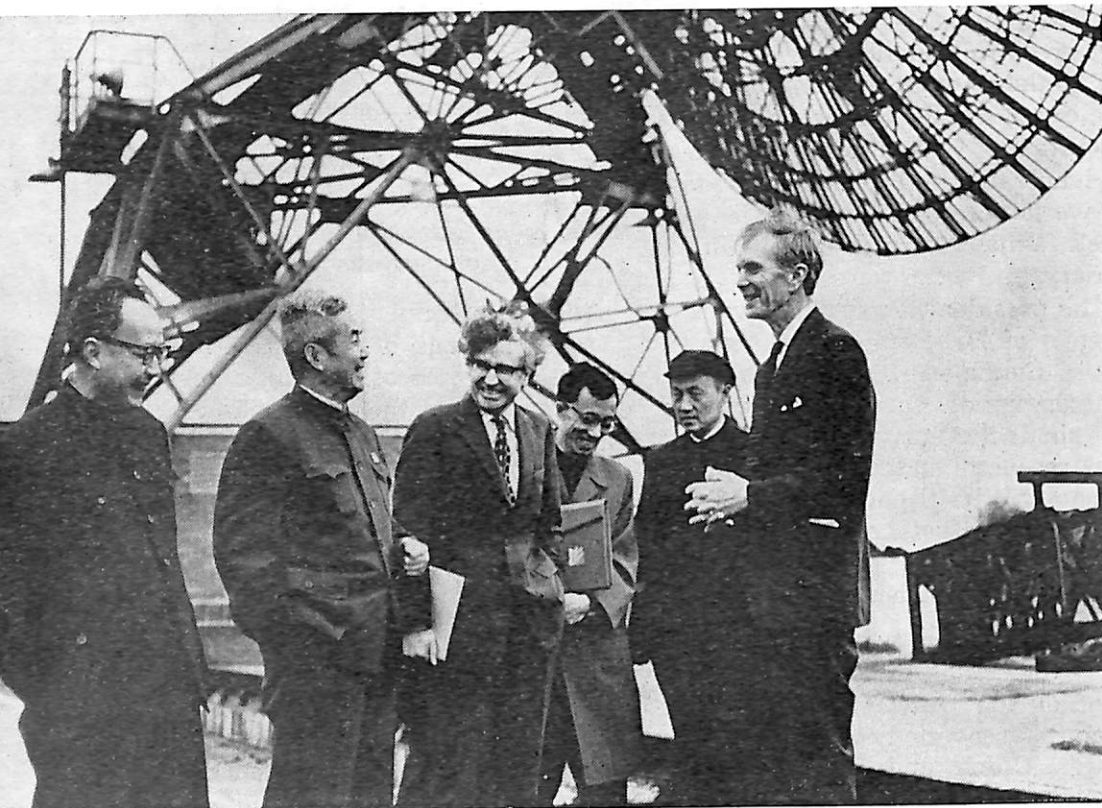
While we were in San Francisco, 67-year-old professor of aerodynamics Homer Stewart flew from Los Angeles to see Prof. Chien Wei-chang, who had been his as-

sociate over 30 years ago. He conveyed regards from the staff of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, where Prof. Chien once worked, and brought recent pictures of Mars taken by the laboratory, which he presented to Prof. Chien. The old professor's esteem moved us deeply.

Though our planned trip to the University of Michigan was cancelled at the last minute, we still heard from Prof. Charles Overberger, the noted high polymer chemist at the university, who called long distance to give his regards to his old friend Prof. Chien Jen-yuan and the other Chinese scientists.

Throughout our entire four-country journey there were numerous meetings between old friends, with whom we talked happily of the past and present, especially with those friends in scientific circles who had visited China and established close friendship with Chinese scientists. Because of our tight schedule, there were many places which were not included on it or which had to be cancelled at the last minute. Friends we were unable to see wrote or called to express their warm regards and the hope that at some time we would have another chance to visit them. We also made many new friends on our tours, in airports, hotels and so on.

Members of the delegation of Chinese scientists talk with Profs. A Hewish, F.R.S., and Sir Martin Ryle, F.R.S., during a visit to the Mallard Radio Astronomy Laboratory, England.





Mr. S.B. Williams (first left), Deputy Minister of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, chats with the delegation head Pei Shih-chang (third left) and deputy head, Pai Chieh-fu (second right).

Although there were language barriers, and we were not together long, their various expressions of warmth showed the good will of the people of those countries to live in friendship with the people of China. The common wish of friends old and new in Britain, Sweden, Canada and the United States was for more exchanges in the future to further promote mutual understanding and friendship between the people and scientists of our two countries.

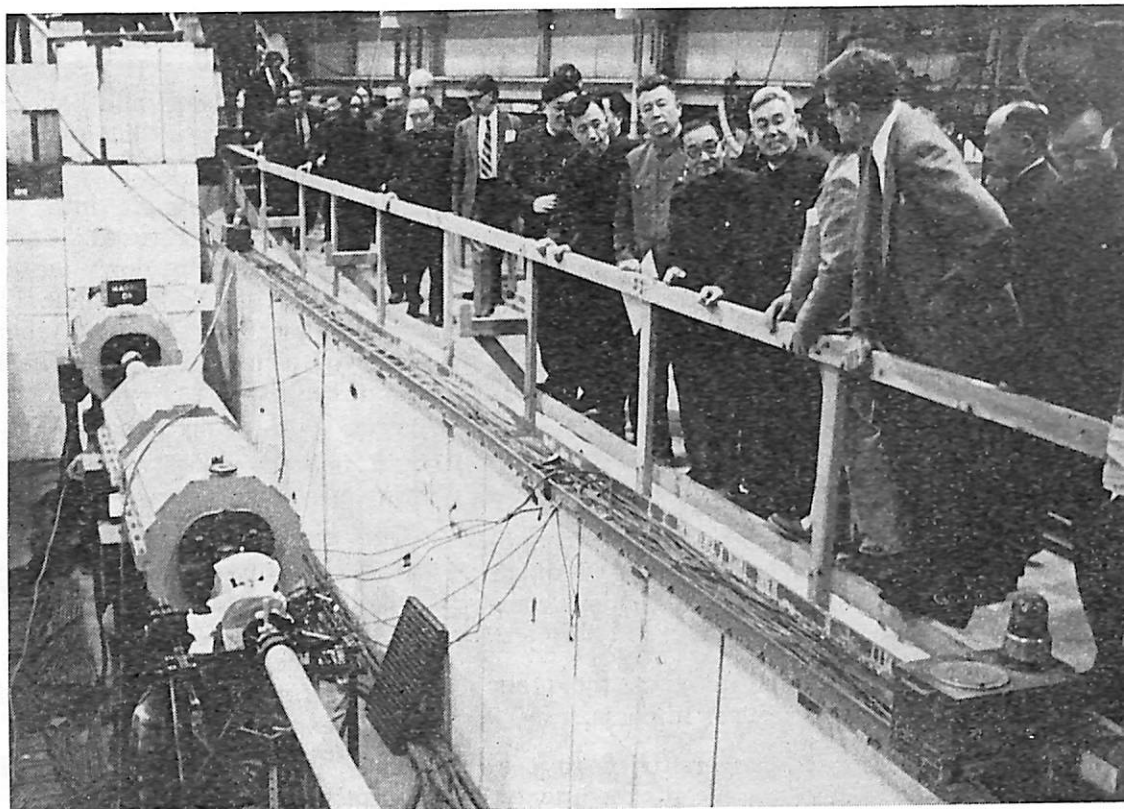
from new China. There was no way to get them in the United States at the time; it was considered "illegal". He had to wait till he got to Britain to buy some for her. How happy he was to have Chinese scientists come to the U.S.! "Welcome, welcome!" he said to Chinese friends seated beside him. "We welcome more Chinese friends to come and welcome more exchanges."

While our visit to the four countries increased mutual understanding and friendship with scientific circles there, we also learned a lot about advanced science and technology from them and laid the basis for further academic exchange. We deeply believe that the seeds of friendship nurtured by the people and scientists of all countries will grow strong and bear rich fruit.

**O**N OUR VISIT to Oxford, Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin and the staff of her laboratory gathered to discuss insulin with Chinese chemists. Everyone thought the exchange of opinions on this and other experimental work was highly beneficial.

On the eve of our trip to the United States, many universities and scientific research organizations had written to our host organizations extending invitations. Wherever we went we were hailed by many strangers who sought us out to talk with us. Some said, "We have been looking forward to seeing you!", others, "We have been hoping to welcome guests from new China for a long time." At a luncheon to welcome us at the University of Chicago, an old scientist emotionally recalled an incident which had occurred some ten years earlier. His daughter collected stamps and wanted some

The delegation at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, U.S.A.



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## A Letter of Thanks

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LAST YEAR the Chemical Fiber Plant in Chenlai county, Kirin province, received the following letter:

"In May I went to Tao-an county in Heilungkiang province to see my cousin whom I had not met for years. Only after I got on the train to come back did I discover I had lost my purse. With the help of the train conductors, I managed to change trains in Peking and go back home.

"Two days later I got a parcel mailed from your plant — my lost purse. But it was only signed 'A Worker'. The twelve people of my family write you this letter to express our heartfelt thanks. Enclosed is the note by 'A Worker'. I hope you can find out who he is and convey our thanks to him."

The letter was signed by Chang Tsung-fu, a commune member in

Honan province, 500 kilometers away.

The revolutionary committee of the plant eventually traced "A Worker" by comparing the handwriting of plant workers who had been in Tao-an at that time. She was Hsu Ho-ping, a Peking middle-school graduate who had settled down in a village and then been recommended by the commune to become a worker in the plant.

Last May the plant had sent her to escort a patient to nearby Tao-an county for treatment. One day the girl found a purse in front of the post office. Nobody claimed it. Inside were 48 yuan, two letters and some tickets. She mailed the purse to the name and address she found on the letters. And of course, she wrote a note without signing her name, as we often see in everyday life.



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## Too Much Money

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ONE DAY a ticket seller in the Chengtu railway station in Szechuan province found that she had ten yuan extra after she had sold two berths to Shanghai. The passenger had already left her window and his train was due to leave in ten minutes.

The woman ran to the sleeper car to return the money. Happy to find him, she explained, "When you bought your tickets, you gave me an extra ten-yuan bill because two were stuck together. I'm sorry, I was careless."

The passenger thought a moment, then replied, "No, I didn't give you any extra money, comrade."

One wanted to give, the other wanted to refuse. Impasse.

Other passengers tried to persuade him to accept the money,

but he refused stubbornly. "That won't do," he said. "If I take it, then she will be short and have to pay it herself."

The train whistle blew. She quickly thrust the note into his hand — but he still refused. "Comrade," he said, "why don't we do this? When I get to Shanghai, I'll check to see if I am short, then write you a note. You also check your accounts."

Time was up. The ticket seller could only take the money and hurry off the train.

One week later, the passenger sent her a letter saying that he actually was short ten yuan, that if the ticket seller really was over ten yuan, he would come to get it when he returned from Shanghai. And he expressed his thanks.

The relieved ticket seller promptly sent him his money.



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# Veteran Worker Tireless in Building Socialism

Staff Reporter

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**A**MID the bustle of the machine shop, Su Kuang-ming watched intently as a skilled machinist turned a piece on his lathe. When the machine stopped the two engaged in a brief discussion, after which Su concluded, "I think you can speed up this machine." As machinist Liu gradually increased the speed from 250 to 600 revolutions per minute, the cutter continued to eat into the metal tubing without incident, and labor efficiency jumped tremendously. Old Su took off his eyeglasses with a smile of satisfaction. "If we change the angle of this cutter, we can raise efficiency still more," he observed.



Su Kuang-ming (second right) discussing the design for a double-headed milling machine with fellow workers.

It was just part of his everyday job to Su Kuang-ming, an engineer at the Harbin Rolling Stock Plant in China's northeast, and a national model worker. Su, now 61, is of medium height. Under his black cap one can see he is beginning to grey at the temples.

He began at the plant as an illiterate worker in the old society and became a milling-machine operator. The memory is still vivid for him of a day not long after Harbin was liberated in 1945. The plant's new leaders, discussing the production plan, called in Su, already a veteran of ten years there. They not only asked him into the manager's office but invited him to be seated in an easy chair. The contrast with his life in the past brought tears to Su's eyes.

"Speak out whatever's on your mind, Old Su," the new leaders urged him. Su cast a glance about the room and said with deep feeling, "Before, I wouldn't have even dared look at the door of this office, to say nothing of sitting in it discussing production plans!"

When he got back home after the meeting, Su Kuang-ming could not calm down. Old memories crowded into his mind. His mother, fleeing from a famine-stricken area in Shantung, had brought him to Harbin when he was ten. At twelve he had become an apprentice in an ironworks owned by a capitalist, and lived the life of a slave. Once when he secretly tried to learn some of the ironwork skills, the foreman beat him. Now the old system of oppression had been overthrown. The workers had become masters of the industrial plants. Many ordinary workers had assumed positions of leadership and production was steadily rising. Su Kuang-ming made a pledge to himself that he would devote all his strength to building the new society.

### Outstanding Innovator

Once the plant was processing locomotive connecting rods. The only milling machine which could handle the job was Su's. The machine worked two shifts, then three, but it was obvious that the shop still could not finish the order on time. Someone suggested that

the plant ask the government for more equipment. A member of the shop Communist Party branch came to Su Kuang-ming. "Old Su," he said, "you know the importance of this job. Without these rods locomotives can't leave our plant and our country's construction will be held up. You must find a way to do the job by improving the machine."

Su greeted the proposal with a smile. "I've been worried about this job, too," he replied. "We've only started building up the country. How can we reach out our hands to the government for more? That's what I've been thinking. I've been wondering whether we couldn't improve the machine's cutting tool."

"Fine. Don't let anything stop you. If you run into any problems come to the Party branch."

These words gave Su Kuang-ming encouragement and strength. Standing before the machine, he turned the workpiece this way and that, examining and measuring it again and again. At dinner he suddenly hit on the idea of adding another cutter on the disk. Forgetting about his food, he drew one draft after another while still at the table. Beset by many problems, he immediately sought out other old workers and the technicians and asked their advice. His eyes red from several sleepless nights, he finally produced a new cutting tool which reduced by two-thirds the time spent on a connecting rod.

From then on, Su Kuang-ming devoted all his extra time to technical innovation. His thirst for education, particularly scientific knowledge, increased. He was always thinking of how to do a job better and faster.

In 1958 the General Line for Socialist Construction, formulated by Chairman Mao, called on the people to "Go all out, aim high, and achieve more, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism". There was a great upsurge in China's industry and agriculture. Knowing that more rolling stock was urgently needed by the railroads, Su became increasingly dissatisfied with his

two-cutter disk and decided to improve it. He experimented until finally he redesigned the disk, a change which cut work time by more than half.

He soaked up others' advanced experience like a sponge and probed tirelessly into problems of technical transformation. Some old workers told him that his cutters did not last long enough because their edges chipped easily. He then made a completely new design for the disk and readjusted the angles of the cutters. He changed the design five times until his new cutting tool—the end-milling cutter—became one of the best in all China at the time.

In the past twenty-some years, Su with the technicians and other workers at the plant have made more than 320 technical innovations. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) he completed work which would originally have taken nine years. He overfulfilled his entire quota for the Second Five-Year Plan in two years and four months. People called him "the man who has become the master of Time". Several times he was chosen a national model worker, and in 1960 was promoted to the position of engineer at his plant.

### New Contributions

Since last year Su has spent much time, even using his free hours and holidays, to visit the city's many industrial plants, encouraging and mobilizing the workers to undertake technical innovation in the spirit of the General Line. His visits are done under the auspices of the Harbin Municipal Bureau of Science and Technology. Contacting a number of old workers, he formed a survey group with them as the core to visit different plants and see what had been done in the improvement of cutting tools.

One day he received an anonymous letter, obviously written by a bad egg, saying that if he made any more technical innovations, he'd better watch out.

"I won't let such a thing intimidate me," he declared. "I'm going to go right on making technical innovations."

His wife urged him to be careful.

"Technical innovations are to speed up our socialist construction," he replied. "Naturally the class enemy objects to what we are doing. This only proves how right we are."

About the same time a rumor started circulating in the plants that the members of the survey group were only doing that job to gain fame and rewards for themselves, that they were "trying to do something big to show off". Some members of the group began to have doubts whether they should go on with the survey. "Of course we'll go on," Su said firmly. "We don't want money or fame. What we want to do is to build socialism the way the General Line calls on us to do. The vast majority of the people are on our side!"

He himself led the members to continue with the survey. On the basis of it, the group proposed a city-wide demonstration of advanced cutting tools in order to help the workers exchange experience.

Su Kuang-ming was chosen general chairman of the huge demonstration meeting. On the day he arrived at the meeting site at dawn, accompanied by a worker who had formerly been his apprentice, and by the latter's own apprentice, to demonstrate his end-milling cutter. Seeing the new technical innovations of recent years was a great inspiration to the masses of the workers. Many individual plants followed up with their own cutting-tool demonstrations on a smaller scale, all of which gave a boost to technical innovation.

#### Doesn't Want to Rest

Su Kuang-ming suffers from rheumatism and other ailments. On the advice of a doctor, the factory Party committee decided to give him a vacation so that he could get a good rest. One day a doctor came to him with a form for him to fill out. Su Kuang-ming shook his head. "I have so much to do here, how can I go away for a rest?"

In recent years the plant has taken on many young workers. Su

Kuang-ming rejoiced at their youthful spirit of daring to think and do, but was unhappy that they were not skilled enough to meet the demands put on them. It was the duty of the old workers to help the young ones raise their technical level, he felt, so when the doctors time and again wrote him sick-leave slips he simply stuck them in his pocket and ignored them.

Not long after the demonstration meeting, Su went to see the head of the lathe group in the plant's machine shop to ask about conditions. He learned that the young people's skill was a problem. "I'm sure they can learn rapidly if you pay attention to their training," he said. He himself not only did all he could to encourage the young workers to master such skills in order to turn out more and better products, he even brought into the factory four of the most advanced cutting tools which had been presented to him by another factory after the exhibi-

tion, so that the young people could learn to use these too.

Su had proven his point in his own life. He had been able to design his famous cutter because he had had many years of work experience. He had taught his skill to his apprentice, Wei Shu-sheng, who in turn had taught it to his apprentice, Shih Pin-jung. Last year the two gave a demonstration of their skill. Twenty-year-old Shih was particularly applauded by the spectators.

Now technical transformation has become a mass movement, not only in Su Kuang-ming's plant but throughout the entire city of Harbin. It has given Su new enthusiasm. At Harbin's 13th conference of model workers and outstanding units held recently, he declared that he would try to do still more for the socialist revolution and socialist construction. "Though I am over 60," he said, "I feel I have greater energy than ever. I wish I could give it all in one big spurt. . . ."

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## OLD FACTORY FACES NEW TASKS

LI WAN-FU

AMONG the buildings of our factory, the Harbin Rolling Stock Plant located in northeast China, one can still see a few small cream-colored buildings with the year 1903 carved on the walls. Actually the plant was built before 1903. It is said that in 1896 a high official of the Ching dynasty was sent to attend the coronation of Czar Nicholas II. After being wine and dined, he signed the Sino-Russian treaty granting the Czarist government the right to build the East China Railway (later known as the Chinese Eastern and then the Chinese Changchun Railway). The plant was set up in 1898, soon after construction of the railroad began, for the repair of locomotives, passenger and freight cars. It took on the job of producing cars for industrial and mining use only after Harbin was liberated.

One of the old workshops where the workers sweated for the capitalist owners day and night before the liberation.



Leaving the plant after a day's work.

Though the plant continued in existence through the period of Japanese imperialist rule, it was only when the Chinese People's Liberation Army under the leadership of Chairman Mao liberated northeast China in 1945 that we workers escaped from our abyss of bitterness and despair.

The new spacious factory buildings along both sides of the street, our products, tip-cars for mine use, lined up along the tracks — what a contrast to the plant when I first came there!

It was in 1939. My native Hopei province had been swept by a

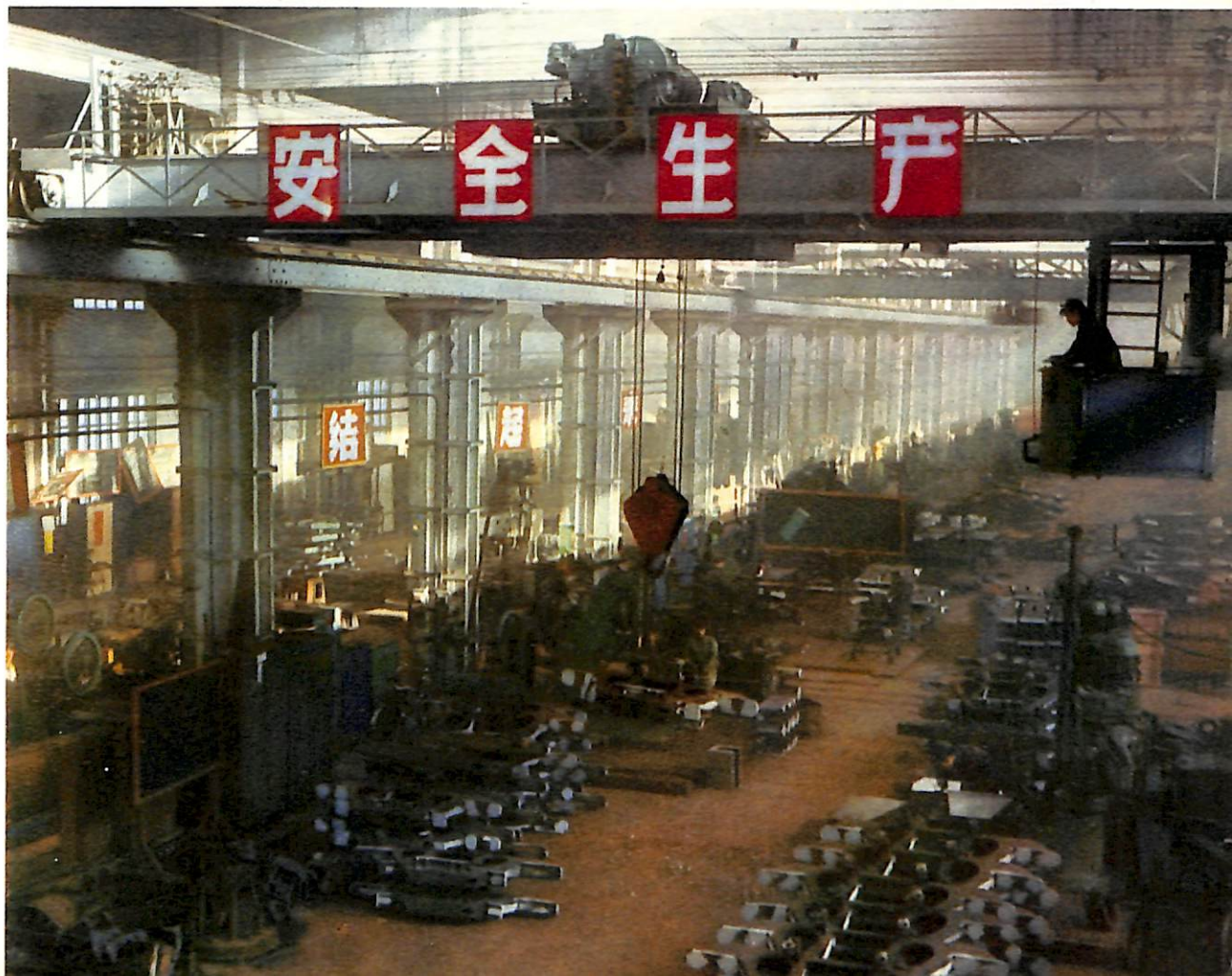
terrific flood. The few *mu* of land I had rented from a landlord yielded nothing, and my house had been washed away. With no way to live there, I left. I drifted to Harbin and became a laborer at the railway car plant.

I had been told it was the biggest in Harbin, but what a sight met my eyes! It was surrounded by a stockade two meters high topped by a "spiderweb" of charged wires. The double iron gates were fastened together with a big chain. As I entered by a small side door, I was accosted by a guard with a glittering bayonet. A few work-





Electric welding on the bottom of a mine tip-car.



An overhead crane, one of the pieces of equipment made by the workers themselves.

shops stood forlornly amid the weeds in the deserted yard. Some empty freight cars were lined up haphazardly on a single railway track.

The tank car shop where I got work was so low and narrow that when two cars stood side-by-side in it there was hardly room to squeeze past them. We almost suffocated from smoke from the forge. Eleven hours a day in such surroundings would leave us utterly

exhausted. We considered ourselves lucky if we didn't pass out before the end of the shift.



Li Wan-fu (left) and co-workers consult on a technical innovation.

On leaving the plant the workers had to undergo a body search. As we stood in a queue in the narrow wooden corridor leading to the side door we had to take off our caps and open our jackets wide. Then we stepped forward one by one with both arms outstretched horizontally while the armed guard searched us. If so much as a nail were found on one of us, he would be accused of stealing. Any breach of the rules met with severe punishment: for a small offense a relentless whipping by the guards, for something more serious, arrest and imprisonment at the local

### Workers Help Manage Plant

Now, since the liberation, it's completely different. We are not only producers but also masters of our plant, playing a very active role in its management. Outstanding workers are chosen by the plant leaders to fill leading positions at various levels. Most of

the present plant leaders were promoted from the ranks of the workers in this way. Workers in every section also elect their own people to handle various functions. In the small parts section which I head, eight other workers are in charge of things like checking attendance, quality inspection, time-study and safety measures. At the beginning of the year and of each quarter these "eight chiefs" and I discuss the production plan with the plant manager and department heads. We report on the workers' criticisms of the management and their suggestions for improvement. This way, our socialist initiative is brought out. Everyone consciously

seeks ways to improve technology, reduce cost, improve quality and raise the plant's productive capacity.

In 1958 we built our first freight car. We were inspired by the General Line for Socialist Construction: "Go all out, aim high and achieve more, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism." Our feat opened a new chapter in the work of our plant. From then on we have produced new cars along with repairing old ones. In 1962 we went still further—we produced a 60-ton tip-car for mine use.

### Old Equipment, New Demands

Our plant has grown, its production capacity has increased, but the workers do not stop trying to improve it. Since our plant is an old one, most of our equipment is quite antiquated. Seventy percent of our machine tools are models from the years 1904 to 1945. Though we have rebuilt some pieces, the contradiction between this old equipment and the new tasks we face grows as our socialist revolution and construction develops. In 1969 the people of the whole country began to open mines on a mass scale, as Chairman Mao had called upon them to do. When our plant undertook to design and build a 100-ton hydraulic tip-car for mine use, the contradiction between old equipment and new demands became even sharper.

One day the workers in the steel casting shop put up a big-character poster asking, "Why is our plant lagging behind?" It sharply criticized some of the leaders for their conservative thinking and their failure to fully arouse the masses to rebuild the old equipment and adopt new technology on a wide scale. A heated discussion raged through the plant. Many workers came forward pledging to rebuild the old equipment and completely change the plant. With support from the leaders, a mass movement to rebuild the old equipment quickly took shape.

We started with a planer which had been made in 1904, the oldest piece of machinery in the place.

After repeated changes we converted it into a milling machine with automatic feed and rapid disengagement. On other machine tools, the transmission systems were improved and pneumatic clamps introduced. Some old pieces, converted into multi-purpose or multi-cutter machine tools, were as good as new. Then we went ahead to build new equipment on our own, a deep-hole drill, an overhead crane and other special-purpose equipment. Many capable innovators came to the fore, among them the well-known model worker Su Kuang-ming.

We designed and built our first 100-ton hydraulic tip-car in just a little over a year. Now in mass production, these cars are playing an important role in mines. The

mass movement for renovation set off by the desire to build the car has greatly raised the plant's productive capacity.

### Other Improvements

As socialist construction moved ahead, our living conditions have improved greatly. In the old days the workers lived in cold, unlighted tents in the yard. Finally they went on strike and forced the company to sign an agreement to supply lumber for new houses. But when it was delivered the manager refused to build them. The workers had to do the construction work themselves. With great difficulty they put up six rows of crude "A"-shaped huts in the yard. That is a thing of the past. Today the workers live in sturdy housing



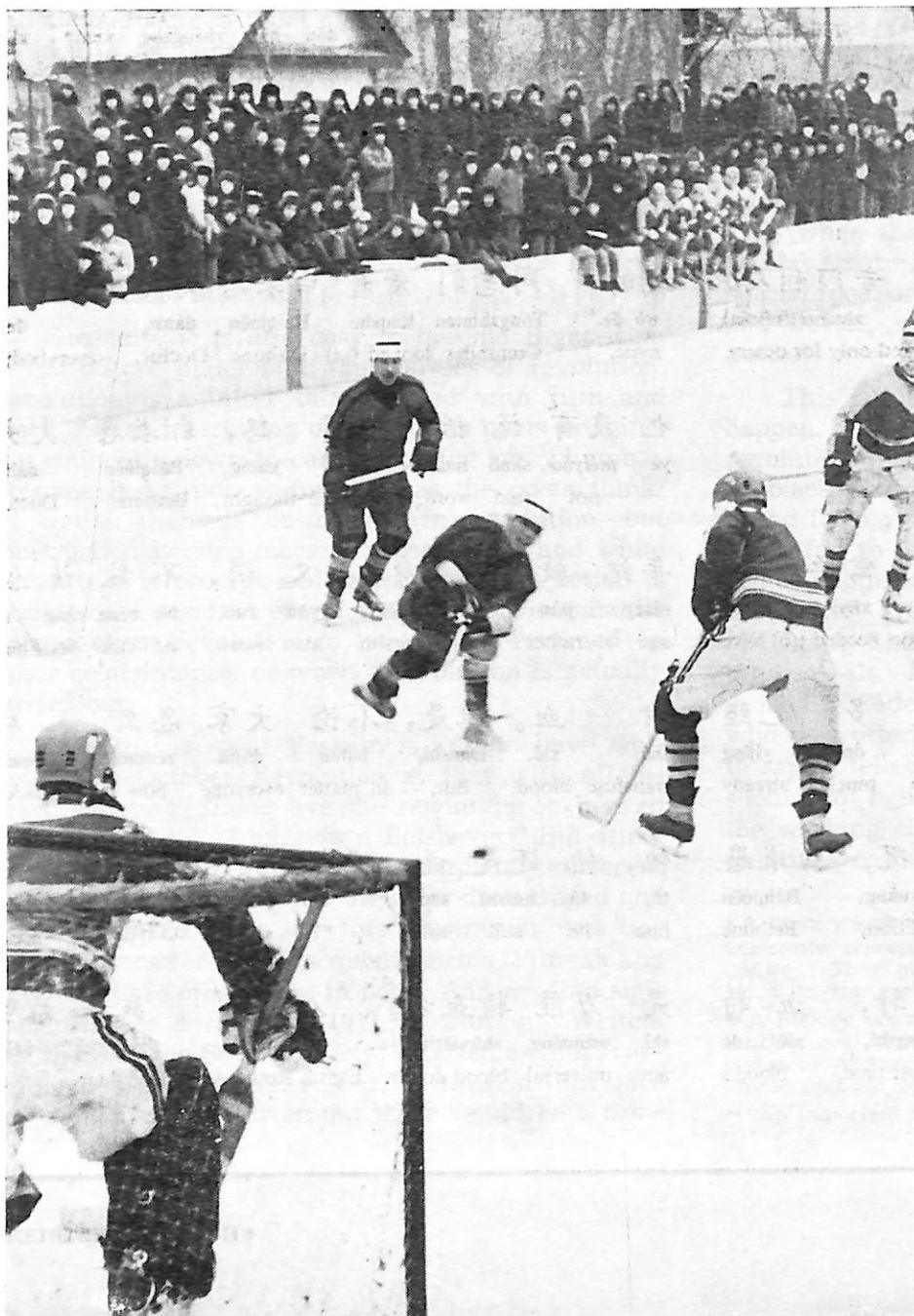
Li Wan-fu and his family.

built by the plant. New housing with a total floor space of over 30,000 square meters, enough for more than 1,000 families, has been constructed in the past 20-some years.

The old clubhouse, formerly exclusively for the enjoyment of the plant manager and supervisors, has become a cultural palace where the workers can go for recreation or study. A middle school, primary school and kindergarten are attached to the plant. Workers get free medical care at its infirmary. Those who work in high temperatures receive regular physical checkups as well as allowances for extra-nourishing food. The general health of the workers is much better now for many reasons. One is that they have opportunity for a lot more outdoor activity. Many like to go hunting or play ice hockey. The factory encourages this and provides the equipment.

I myself long ago moved out of the miserable hovel where I lived and into a new cottage built by the plant. Three of my five children are working and the younger two are in school. When I see them doing their homework under the bright electric light in the evening, I often think of my daughter who died before the liberation. When she had just learned to walk, a big abscess appeared on her neck. I had no money to take her to a doctor. As a result of it she became totally blind and did not live to maturity. Had she been born in the new China, she would certainly have grown up in good health like her younger brothers and sisters.

A hockey match featuring players from the plant.



## Lesson 17

## 白求恩大夫的故事

## Báiqiūn dàifu de gùshi

## A Story about Doctor Bethune

诺尔曼·白求恩是个有名的来源很困难。医院里，很多人  
 Nuòěrmàn Báiqiūn shì ge yǒumíng de láiyuán hěn kùnnán. Yiyuànli, hěn duō rén  
 Norman Bethune was a famous sources very difficult. In the hospital, quite many people

大夫。他是加拿大人。为了帮助都为伤员输过血。可是为了  
 dàifu. Tā shì Jiā'nádà rén. Wèile bāngzhu dōu wèi shāngyuán shūguo xiě. Kěshì wèile  
 doctor. He was Canadian person. To help all for (the) wounded had transfused blood. But to

中国的抗日战争，一九三七年抢救伤员，大家都还争着献血。  
 Zhōngguó de kàng Rì zhànzhēng, yījiūsānqīnián qiǎngjiù shāngyuán, dàjiā dōu hái zhēngzhe xiàn xiě.  
 China's anti-Japanese war, 1937 save wounded, everyone all still vied to donate blood.

来到中国。白求恩大夫热爱人民，这时候，白求恩大夫坚决地说：“抽  
 láidào Zhōngguó. Báiqiūn dàifu rèài rénmín, Zhè shíhòu, Báiqiūn dàifu jiānjuéde shuō: “Chōu  
 came to China. Bethune Doctor loved (the) people, This time, Bethune Doctor firmly said: “Draw

热爱自己的工作，毫不利己，专门利人，我的。”同志们看着白求恩大夫，谁  
 rèài zìjǐ de gōngzuò, háobúlijǐ, zhuānménlìrén, wǒ de.” Tóngzhimen kànzhe Báiqiūn dàifu, shuí  
 loved own work, utterly selfless, worked only for others, mine.” Comrades looked (at) Bethune Doctor, (everybody)

是个伟大的国际主义战士。也没有说话。大家想，白求恩大夫  
 shì ge wěidà de guójìzhūyì zhànshì. yě méiyǒu shuō huà. Dàjiā xiǎng, Báiqiūn dàifu  
 was a great internationalist fighter. not said word. Everyone thought, Bethune Doctor

有一天，一个伤员需要作年纪较大，身体又弱，不能让他  
 Yǒu yītiān, yíge shāngyuán xūyào zuò niánjì jiào dà, shēntǐ yòu ruò, bù néng ràng tā  
 (There) was one day, a wounded person needed (to) have age rather great, health also weak, no can let him

手术。伤员流血太多，已经输血。但是，不论大家怎么劝  
 shǒushù. Shāngyuán liú xiě tài duō, yǐjīng shū xiě. Dànshì, búlùn dàjiā zěnmò quàn  
 operation. Wounded person lost blood too much, already transfuse blood. But, no matter everyone how persuaded

昏迷了。看到这种情况，白求恩他，他还是说：“我是‘O型’血，  
 hūnmí le. Kàndào zhèzhǒng qíngkuàng, Báiqiūn tā, tā hái shì shuō: “Wǒ shì ‘O xíng’ xiě,  
 unconscious. Seeing this condition, Bethune him, he still said: “I am ‘O type’ blood,

大夫说：“要输血！”当时，血的是万能输血者。八路军战士为了  
 dàifu shuō: “Yào shū xiě!” Dāngshí, xiě de shì wànnéng shūxiězhě. Bālùjūn zhànshì wèile  
 Doctor said: “Need transfuse blood!” At that time, blood's am universal blood donor. Eighth Route Army fighter to

解放 人民 受了 伤, 我们 一定要 救活  
jiěfàng rénmin shòule shāng, wǒmen yídìng yào jiùhuó  
liberate people received wound, we certainly must save

他。快!” 说完, 他就 躺在 床上,  
tā. Kuài!” Shuōwán, tā jiù tǎngzài chuángshàng,  
him. Quick!” Finishing speaking, he then lay on bed,

解开 上衣, 伸出 胳膊。就 这样, 白求恩  
jiěkāi shàngyī, shēnchū gēbo. Jiù zhèyàng, Báiqiúēn  
unbuttoned jacket, extended arm. In this way, Bethune

大夫 的 血 使 这个 战士 获得了  
dàifu de xiě shǐ zhège zhànshì huòdéle  
Doctor's blood enabled this fighter to obtain

第二次 生命。  
dìèrcì shēngmìng.  
second life.

### Translation

Norman Bethune was a famous Canadian doctor. He came to China in 1937 to help in the anti-Japanese war. Dr. Bethune loved the people and his work. Utterly devoted to others without any thought of self, he was a great internationalist fighter.

One day a wounded man needed an operation. He was unconscious from loss of blood. When Dr. Bethune saw this he said, "He needs a transfusion." Blood was very hard to get. Many members of the hospital staff had already given blood for the wounded, but to save this wounded fighter they still vied with one another to donate blood. "Draw my blood," Dr. Bethune said firmly. His comrades looked at him in silence. They thought that they should not let Dr. Bethune, who was rather old and not strong, give blood. No matter how they persuaded him, he still said, "My blood is type O. I'm a universal donor. This Eighth Route Armyman was wounded fighting to liberate the people, so we must certainly save him. Quick!" With these words, he lay down on a bed, unbuttoned his jacket and extended his arm. Dr. Bethune's blood gave the fighter a second life.

### Notes

1. *Omission of the numeral yi 一*. In the text Báiqiúēn shì ge yǒumíng de dàifu 白求恩是个有名的大夫 (Dr. Bethune was a famous doctor) can also be written as Báiqiúēn shì yíge yǒumíng de dàifu 白求恩是一个有名的大夫. The 一 can be omitted and the measure word ge 个 used alone only when it comes after the verb and before the object. Here 是 is the verb and 有名的大夫 is the object.

2. *Búlùn 不论 (no matter)*. 不论 negates doubt about the main clause. It means the conditions stated will not influence the conclusion, as in Búlùn dàjiā zěnmò quàn tā, Báiqiúēn dàifu háishi shuō: "Wǒ shì wànnéng shūxiězhě. Bālùjūn zhànshì wèile jiěfàng rénmin shòule shāng, wǒmen yídìng yào jiùhuó tā" 不论大家怎么劝他, 白求恩大夫还是说: "我是万能输血者。八路军战士为了解放人民受了伤, 我们一定要救活他" (No matter how they persuaded him, he still said, "My blood is type O, I'm

a universal donor. The Eighth Route Armyman was wounded to liberate the people, so we must certainly save him"). Another example: Búlùn xià yǔ bú xià yǔ, wǒmen dōu qù kàn diànyǐng 不论下雨不下雨, 我们都去看电影 (We will go to see the movie whether it rains or not). Note: 不论 is usually followed by parallel elements like 不论下雨不下雨. If not, 怎么 or some other indefinite interrogative pronoun must be used, as in 不论大家怎么劝他. Also, 不论 is usually followed by adverbs like 都 and 还是, which denote that there is no exception.

3. *Usage of interrogative pronouns*. In addition to their use in interrogative sentences, 谁, 什么, 怎么 are also used in declarative sentences as indefinite pronouns, as in Tóngzhìmen kànzhe Báiqiúēn dàifu, shuí yě méiyǒu shuō huà 同志们看着白求恩大夫, 谁也没有说话 (Dr. Bethune's comrades looked at him in silence). 谁 means everyone present. In Shénmo kùnnan wǒmen dōu néng kèfú 什么困难我们都能克服 (We can overcome any difficulty), 什么 means "any". Another example: Búlùn dàjiā zěnmò quàn tā, Báiqiúēn dàifu háishi shuō... 不论大家怎么劝他, 白求恩大夫还是说... (No matter how they persuaded him, he still said...). Here 怎么 emphasizes various ways of persuasion.

4. *The suffix zhě 者*. It indicates that the word denotes someone who does something, as does -er or -or added to a word in English. For example láodòngzhě 劳动者 (laborer), zuòzhě 作者 (writer), wànnéng shūxiězhě 万能输血者 (universal blood donor), etc.

5. *Prepositional constructions formed with zài 在 used as complements*. In Báiqiúēn dàifu shuōwán, jiù tǎngzài chuángshàng 白求恩大夫说完, 就躺在床上 (With these words, Dr. Bethune lay down on a bed), the prepositional construction 在床上 is the complement of the verb 躺. Other examples: zhànzài hòubiān 站在后边 (stand behind), zuòzài yuèlǎnshìlǐ 坐在阅览室里 (sit in the reading room), guàzài qiángshàng 挂在墙上 (hang on the wall). These prepositional constructions generally indicate the place of an action.

### Exercises

I. Answer the following questions on the text:

1. 白求恩大夫是哪国人?
2. 白求恩大夫是什么时候来中国的?
3. 白求恩大夫为什么 (wèishénmo, meaning "why") 来中国?
4. 白求恩大夫为什么 (wèishénmo "why") 坚决要把自己的血输给受伤的中国战士?

II. Make sentences using these words:

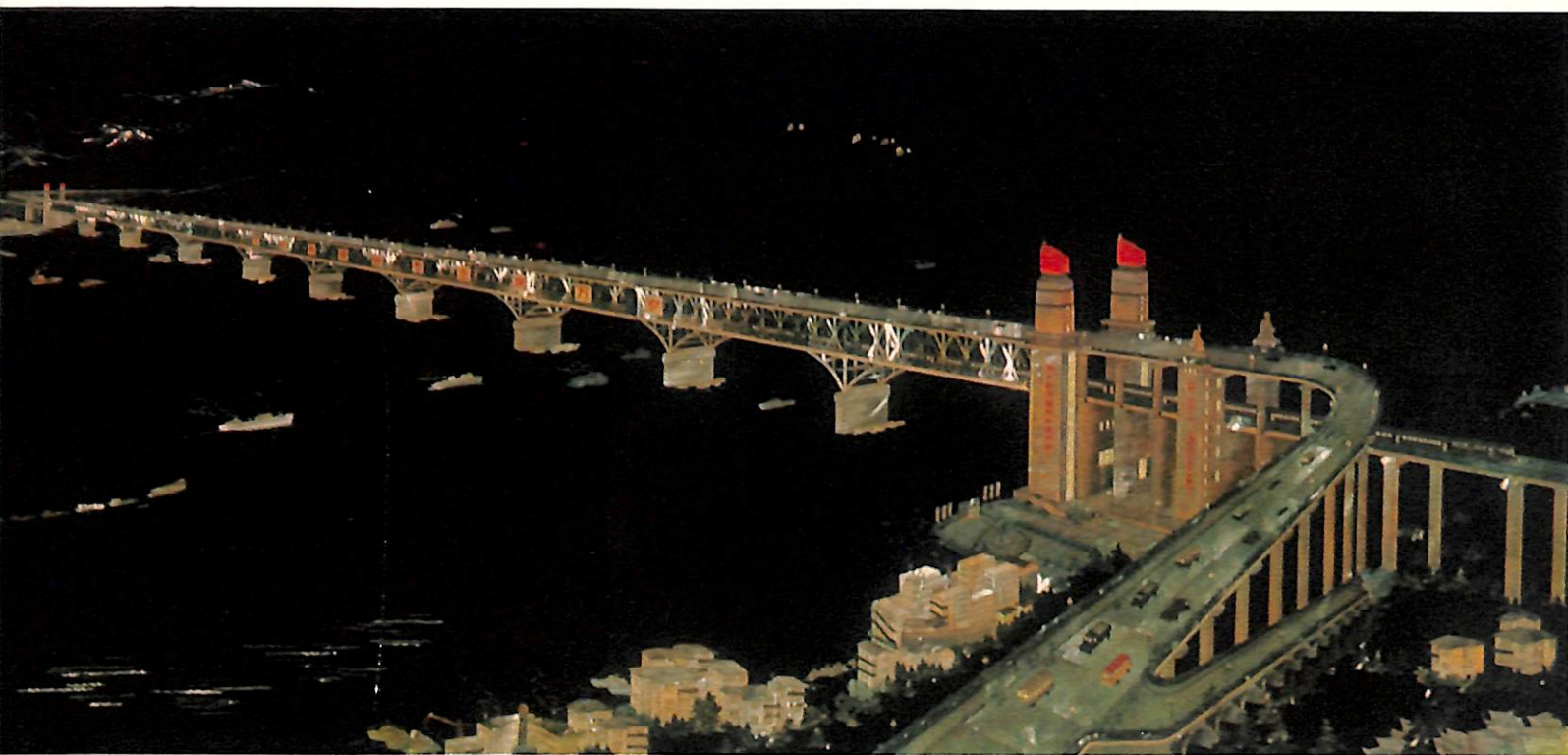
1. 不论
2. 坐在
3. 站在

III. Read the following passage:

白求恩大夫对 (duì, meaning "towards") 伤员非常热情。他热爱每个人民战士, 他常常去病房 (bīngfáng wards) 看伤员, 给伤员倒水 (dào shuǐ pour water), 了解 (liǎojiě find out) 病情, 很多伤员都很感动。

有一次, 医院为了慰劳 (wèiláo express its regards for) 白求恩大夫, 给他买了很多水果 (shuǐguǒ fruit), 香烟 (xiāngyān cigarettes)。白求恩大夫把这些东西拿到病房里。他从这个病房走到那个病房, 给每个人一些水果, 一些香烟, 说着不太流利的中国话: "你吃..." 回来以后, 他对翻译 (fānyǐ interpreter) 同志说: "这比我自己吃还好!"

(For translation please turn to p. 17)



The bridge across the Yangtze River at Nanking (Screen with mother-of-pearl inlay in lacquer)

National hero Cheng Cheng-kung (Screen in carved lacquer)



# Lacquer Ware of Yangchow

**Y**ANGCHOW in Kiangsu province has been making graceful and exquisite lacquer ware since China's Warring States period (403-221 B.C.) more than 2,000 years ago. Yangchow craftsmen are famous for the form, beauty and expert technique of their work.

Their most famous articles are carved lacquer inlaid with jade, bone or stone; high and low relief; designs with carved outlines painted in gold and other colors; designs filled with different colored lacquer, and lacquer inlaid with mother-of-pearl in flat surface.

Yangchow lacquer ware is rich in the variety of its decoration — human figures, landscapes, animals, birds, flowers and calligraphy. Some are done in the traditional styles found in paintings and scrolls; some in geometric patterns. Both styles are sometimes used in one piece of work.

Soon after liberation the Chinese Communist Party and the people's government helped some old lacquer artists of Yangchow form a producers' cooperative which later developed into the present Yangchow Lacquer Ware Studios with 600 craftsmen. Following the fine national and local characteristics, these artists in lacquer use the best of the old traditions to create the new and make bold innovations in subject matter, form and technique. Thus variety has expanded from the original 50 to over 300 kinds.

**A** NEW three-panel screen, "Peacock and Tree Peonies", was recently made in the Yangchow studios. This traditional piece used to be made by inlaying stones carved in low relief on a lacquer background. Today the design is carved in high relief to give a three-dimensional effect. For example, formerly the neck of the peacock was carved out of one piece of stone. Now the artists

use wood as a base and build up the neck with 800 pieces of mother-of-pearl carefully selected to reflect the myriad natural colors of peacock feathers. To make the bird stand out, the artists carve 90 slips of ivory into fine tail feathers and set them in layers instead of carving the tail out of one piece of material as in the past. This new peacock looks lively with very natural and brilliant colors.

A new single-panel screen depicts the national hero Cheng Cheng-kung of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) recovering Taiwan province, Chinese territory occupied by colonialists. This work was made by veteran artist Kung Yu-ching, who has been carving lacquer for half a century.

To breathe life into his creation, the artist spent much time considering how to delineate the characters and the general composition of the picture. Even such minute details as the thickness of a man's beard and the placing of a horse's mane were improved again and again.

In the past such screens were carved on a flat surface with little gradation. To make the figures stand out more, the artist discussed increasing the thickness of the base with members of the lacquer shop so that he could carve the figures in the scene in five different depths to achieve the effect of perspective.

Many new works reflecting contemporary life are being created in the Yangchow studios. "The Yangtze Bridge at Nanking" won particular praise in a recent exhibition. The bridge is made of pieces of mother-of-pearl and other shells inlaid in sharp contrast on a black lacquer background, both polished to a flat surface in the famous traditional style. Under different lighting, the design glistens in all shades of the rainbow, showing the magnificent bridge illuminated at night.

Over 100 veteran artists are preserving this rich and ancient craft in the Yangchow studios. The leaders give them constant help in political and cultural studies and organize tours so they can broaden their vistas and give fuller play to their creativity. More than 400 young people are being trained here to carry on this traditional art, making rapid progress under the guidance of the veterans. "The Yangtze Bridge at Nanking" was made by two of these young artists.

Young artists working on a picture in lacquer at the Yangchow studios.





Violin group of the West City Children's Palace, Peking.

# Vacation Acti

**L**AST WINTER, Peking's two million primary and middle school pupils spent their one-month vacation in rich and varied ways. Apart from doing a small amount of homework, they could choose from many kinds of activities set up for them.

Schools throughout the city set up winter vacation play places and many factories and streets

Story-telling at the Chiuhsienchiao First Primary School.





# ivities for Children



An after-school study group of the Chiuhsienchiao Second Primary School discusses a problem.



Students from Middle School No. 65 sweep snow in Tien An Men Square.

organized centers where the children could play ball, Chinese chess and other games, see slides, recite poetry or practice singing and dancing.

The city's movie theaters scheduled many films with tickets at one-third the normal price. The Peking Planetarium gave them a lecture, "Mysteries of the Universe and Space Travel", and the Museum of Natural History presented "Labor Created Man" and "The Wonderful World of Plastics". The children's room at the Capital Library added many new books and the librarians both told revolutionary stories and taught the children how to write them.

The TV station added special programs on the pupils' vacation activities and the twice-daily Little Red Soldier and Red Guard radio programs were enriched for their several million fans.

The frozen earth and cold weather did not stop the children's

outdoor sports. They were the liveliest people on the skating rinks. Many middle school students kept up their distance running and quite a few took part in the Spring Festival race around the city. A student from the Tunghsien Third Middle School took first place in the junior 5,500-meter race. Many primary and middle schools organized exhibition matches of football, ping-pong or tug-of-war. District and city junior amateur athletic schools organized short-term training courses and lectures on sports.

## Children's Palaces

The Peking Children's Palace and seven others were centers of children's vacation activities. There were special classes with experienced instructors. The West City Children's Palace taught violin, accordion, flute, clarinet, dancing, art, model planes and ships, telegraphy and transistor radios. The Peking Children's Palace

provided large-scale activities almost every day, including parties, movies, storytelling, recitation contests, performances, lectures on science and technology, ball games, parties with People's Liberation Army men, listening to old workers tell about their revolutionary struggles, and meetings with heroes and heroines. About 3,000 children came every day.

Everyone worked enthusiastically to widen the children's vacation activities. The PLA sent outstanding singers and musicians to the parties. A retired worker who had taken part in the famous February 7th strike in 1923 told about this revolutionary struggle. An experienced TV actor came to tell revolutionary stories.

The children's most unforgettable experience was meeting Yu-jung, known throughout China as a little heroine of the Inner Mongolian grasslands. In January 1964, nine-year-old Yu-jung and her eleven-year-old sister Lung-mei



Art enthusiasts of Middle School No. 107 discuss their paintings.

fought to save their commune's herd of sheep in a snowstorm. Both Yu-jung's feet were frozen and had to be amputated. People praised them highly and called them "heroic little sisters of the grasslands". Books, plays and a motion picture were based on their

story and they became models for Chinese children. When children run into difficulties, thinking of the two sisters gives them added strength to overcome them.

Yu-jung came to the Children's Palace while passing through the city on her way back to Inner Mongolia. Peking's children were excited to see their heroine and hear her tell her story. They were especially moved to hear how stubbornly she exercised and studied after she was fitted with artificial legs. This was the revolutionary spirit the Chinese children want to learn.

### Learning to Serve the People

Supporting the people's army and taking special care of the families of army men is a fine tradition expressing the Chinese people's love for their army. The Little Red Soldier organizations in many schools included this as a significant job during the vacation. Some of them organized children's teams to go to army hospitals to perform for the soldiers. Other children went to visit families of army men and did household chores for them.

Before the winter vacation, some of the Little Red Soldiers in Tahungmen Second Primary School decided to practice what they had learned from Lei Feng, a PLA fighter known throughout China for wholeheartedly serving the people. They agreed that if it snowed they would gather at the school and go to help the families of army men clear off the snow. Sure enough, early in the morning of the first snowy day they trooped over to old Mother Chang's house with their brooms and shovels. All smiles, she called them inside, but instead they started vigorously cleaning off the snow in the yard. Their faces red from the cold, they swept the entire courtyard and the path in front of the gate.

Mother Chang watched them with a mixture of pleasure and concern, repeatedly asking them to come in and get warm.

None of them went in and one girl said, "We're learning from Uncle Lei Feng, we don't mind how cold it is!" Then they trooped off to the home of another army man's family.

A girl back from Heilungkiang province to visit her family tells Peking students about life in the countryside.



「中国建设」月刊英文版一九七三年第五期





Horses (stuffed silk toys)



1973

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**CHINA RECONSTRUCTS**

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